ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES

ADULT READERS ONLY

ISSUE FIVE
$3.50

Associated Student Bodies

Issue 5

Story by Lance Rund

Art by Chris McKinley

ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODIES

OVER HALFWAY THERE

Time flies when you're having fun. Or something. We're over halfway through to the end of *Associated Student Bodies'* intended storyline. As much fun as it's been, we'd be lying if we said we weren't looking forward to a break.

And here we thought we knew what we were letting ourselves in for…

THE MORNING AFTER

In this issue, we have two parts to the main story. The first is a glimpse into the home life of Our Hero, Daniel. The second part is definitely silly, with a goodly dose of fantasy. Is it "realistic"? Could something like that actually happen? (Go read it, you'll understand.)

Yes, but… things are never as simple as they seem.

It's a type of magic. It can't be manufactured at will, and like all things magical, there is always subtle peril waiting. Standard disclaimer: don't try this at home, unless you've really thought it through… and even then, don't think you've thought of every possible consequence.

As writers of fiction, we get to bend the rules a little. Indulge us, and realize the difference between comic book and fact. After all, there aren't any super-heroes in *Associated Student Bodies*. Just don't tell Timmy or David that.

OOOH, FORESHADOWING

Issue six will be a serious challenge. One big story, one major problem. Wraparound cover by Baron Engel, all interior art by Chris McKinley. Don't miss it. 'Nuff said.

IF WE HAD A DOT-COM, WOULD OUR STOCK BE WORTH $300 A SHARE?

Can't wait for issue 6? There's stuff to be had at:

http://www.arclight.net/asb

See you in 90!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Front Cover	"Santa Was Good To Me!"	art by Nakira
1	"Homecoming"	art by Chris McKinley written by Lance Rund
11	"Leather and Steel"	art by Zjonni written by Lance Rund
18	"The Adventures of QueerMan"	art by Chuck Davies written by Lance Rund
19	"Richter Scale Males"	art by Chris McKinley written by Lance Rund
21	"Auld Lang Something"	art by Chris McKinley written by Lance Rund
Back cover	"Mister David"	art by Jareth

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Associated Student Bodies

"Homecoming"

story by Lance Rund
art by Chris McKinley

1-3
4-6
IRVINE
GREYHOUND

DANNY!

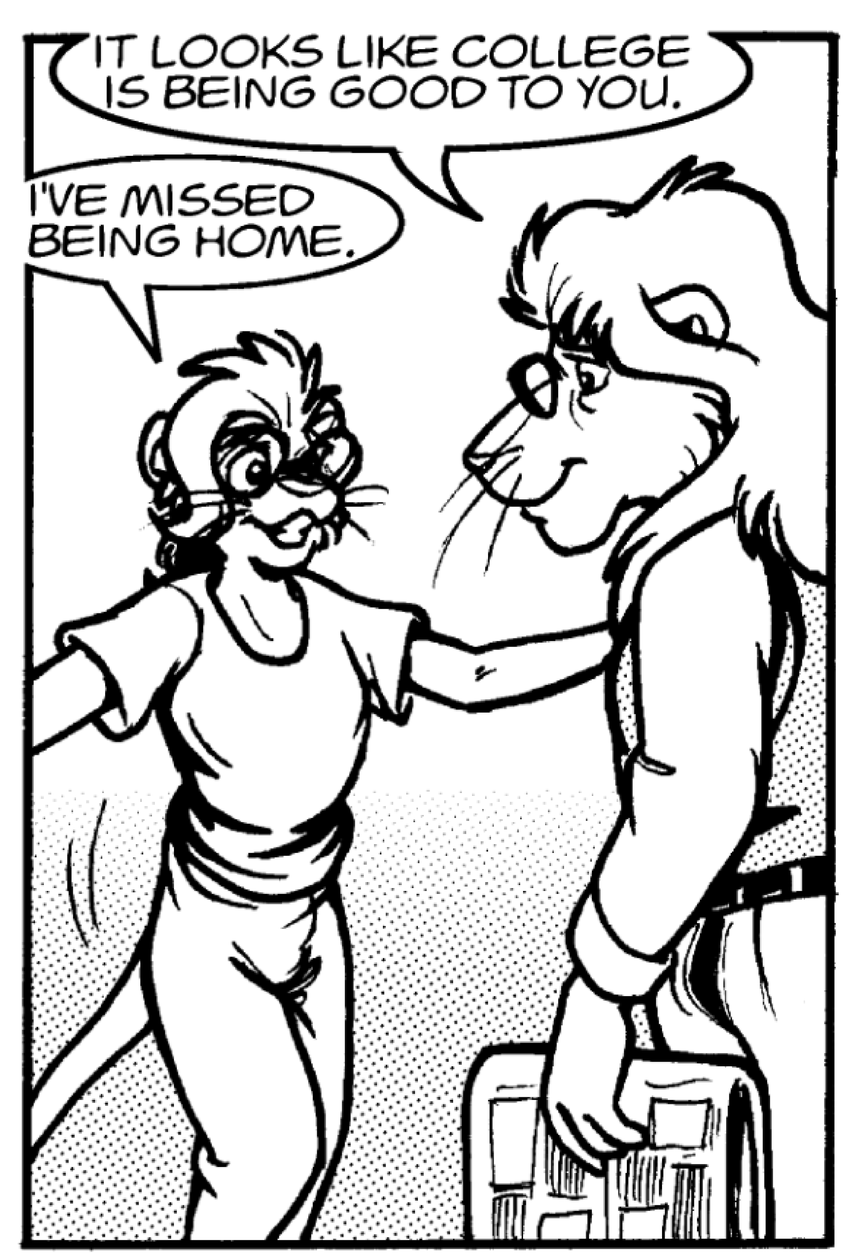
I MISSED YOU, MOM...

YOU LOOK SO GOOD! YOUR MANE'S FILLING OUT, AND...
JEEZE, MOM...

I'VE GOT MONTHS OF MOTHERING TO DO IN JUST A FEW DAYS. GET USED TO IT!
I SUPPOSE YOU CAN'T HELP IT.

YOUR SISTER'S ALREADY AT HOME. SHE FLEW IN LAST NIGHT.
IS THIS THE FIRST SHE'S BEEN HOME SINCE LAST CHRISTMAS?
YES, AND SHE HARDLY EVER CALLS. YOU COULD CALL MORE OFTEN TOO, YOU KNOW!

HI, DAD!
WELL, HELLO THERE...


IT LOOKS LIKE COLLEGE IS BEING GOOD TO YOU.
I'VE MISSED BEING HOME.

AND WHAT ARE YOUR GRADES LIKE?
UM, MOSTLY 'B'S, BUT I THINK I GOT AN 'A' IN MY MODERN LIT CLASS.

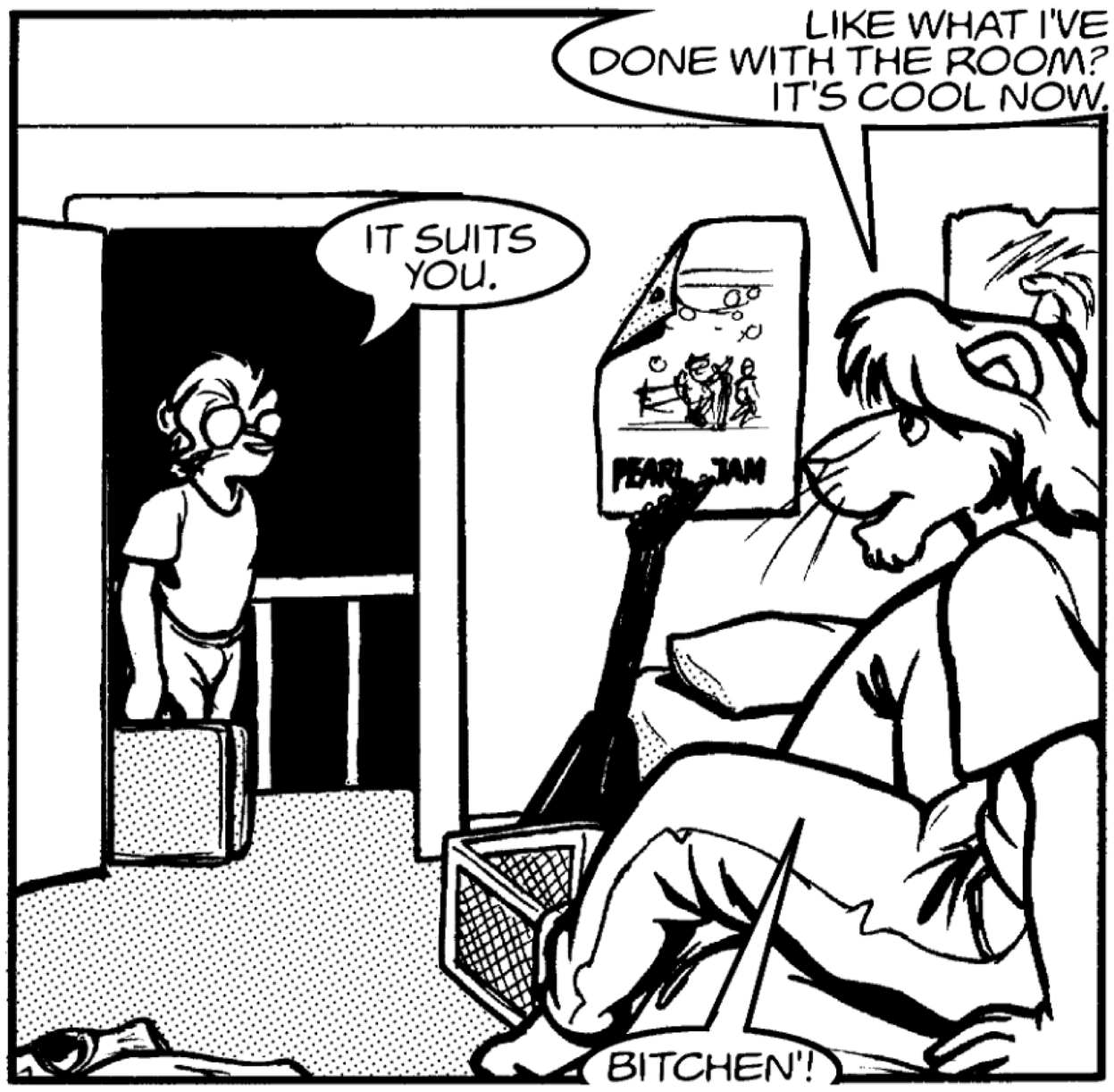
THAT'S GOOD, BUT YOU CAN DO BETTER. THERE'S NO REASON YOU CAN'T GET TOP GRADES IN MOST OF YOUR CLASSES.
I SUPPOSE... IT'S A LOT HARDER THAN HIGH SCHOOL THOUGH!

THAT'S THE GENERAL IDEA.
DON'T BE ANAL, ALAN. HE JUST GOT HOME.
UH, I'M GONNA GO UNPACK...

SET UP IN YOUR BROTHER'S OLD ROOM, DANNY. HE'S MOVED INTO YOUR ROOM, YOU KNOW.
"DON'T BE ANAL"?

SINCE WHEN HAVE I BEEN ANAL?
HOME, SWEET HOME
OH, BE HONEST. WHEN HAVEN'T YOU?

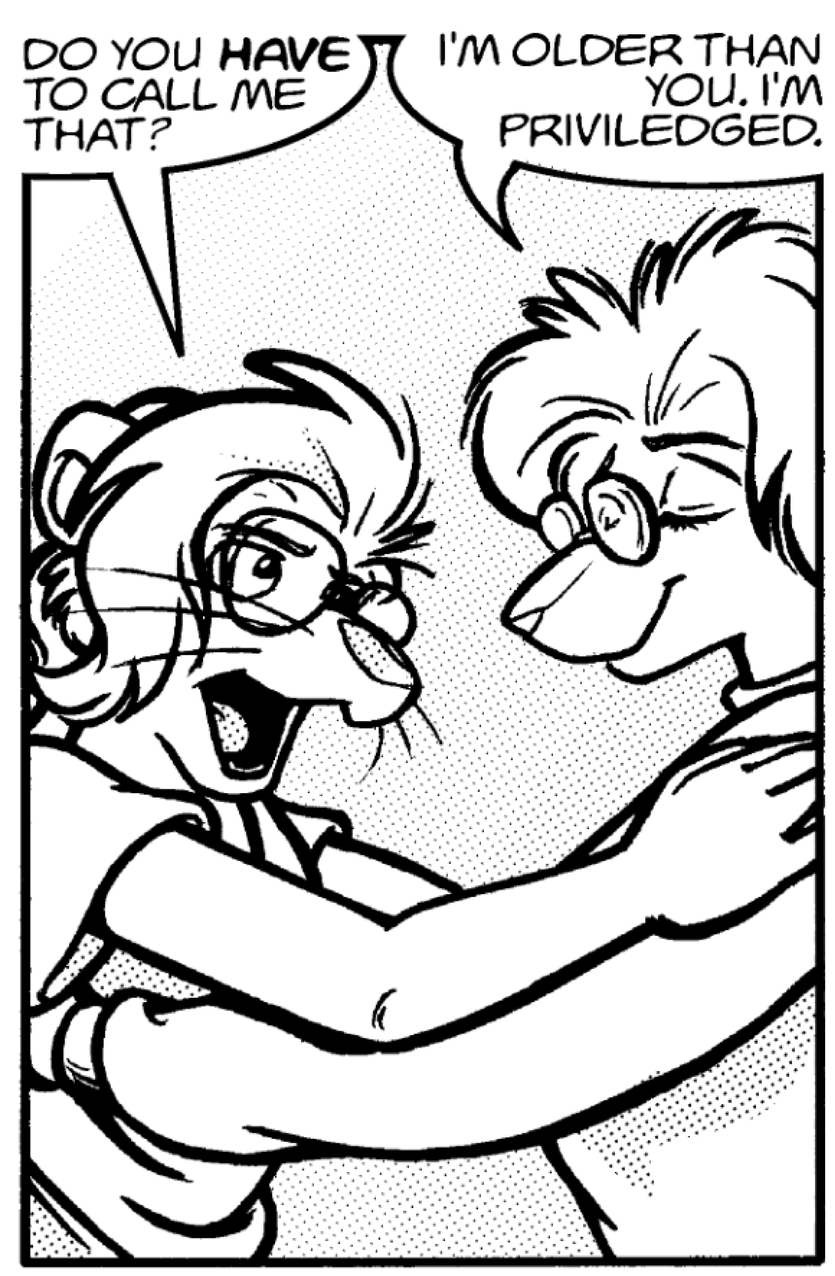
HI, MIKE...
HEY, DUDE.


LIKE WHAT I'VE DONE WITH THE ROOM? IT'S COOL NOW.
IT SUITS YOU.
PEARL JAM
BITCHEN'!

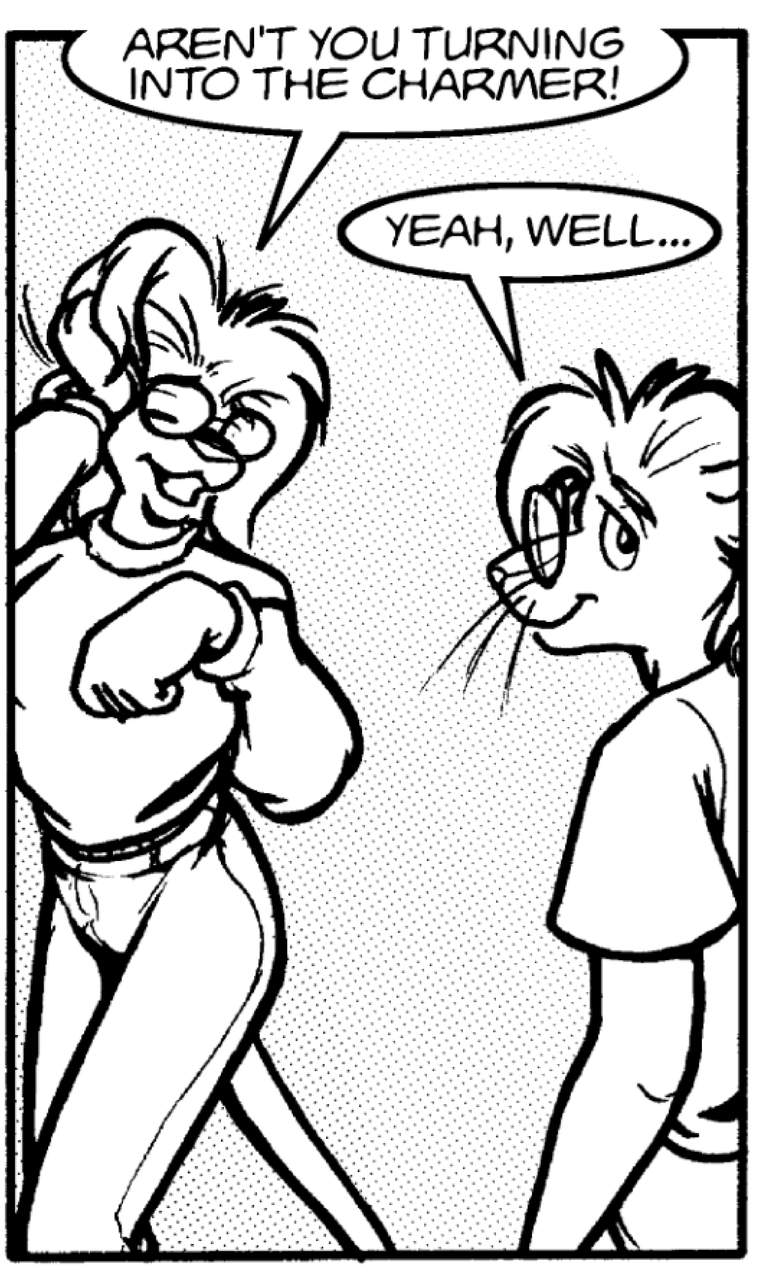
HE CAN'T BE RELATED TO ME...

GUESS WHO!
-smear-

POOPIE-BUTT!
STEPHANIE!


DO YOU HAVE TO CALL ME THAT?
I'M OLDER THAN YOU. I'M PRIVILEDGED.

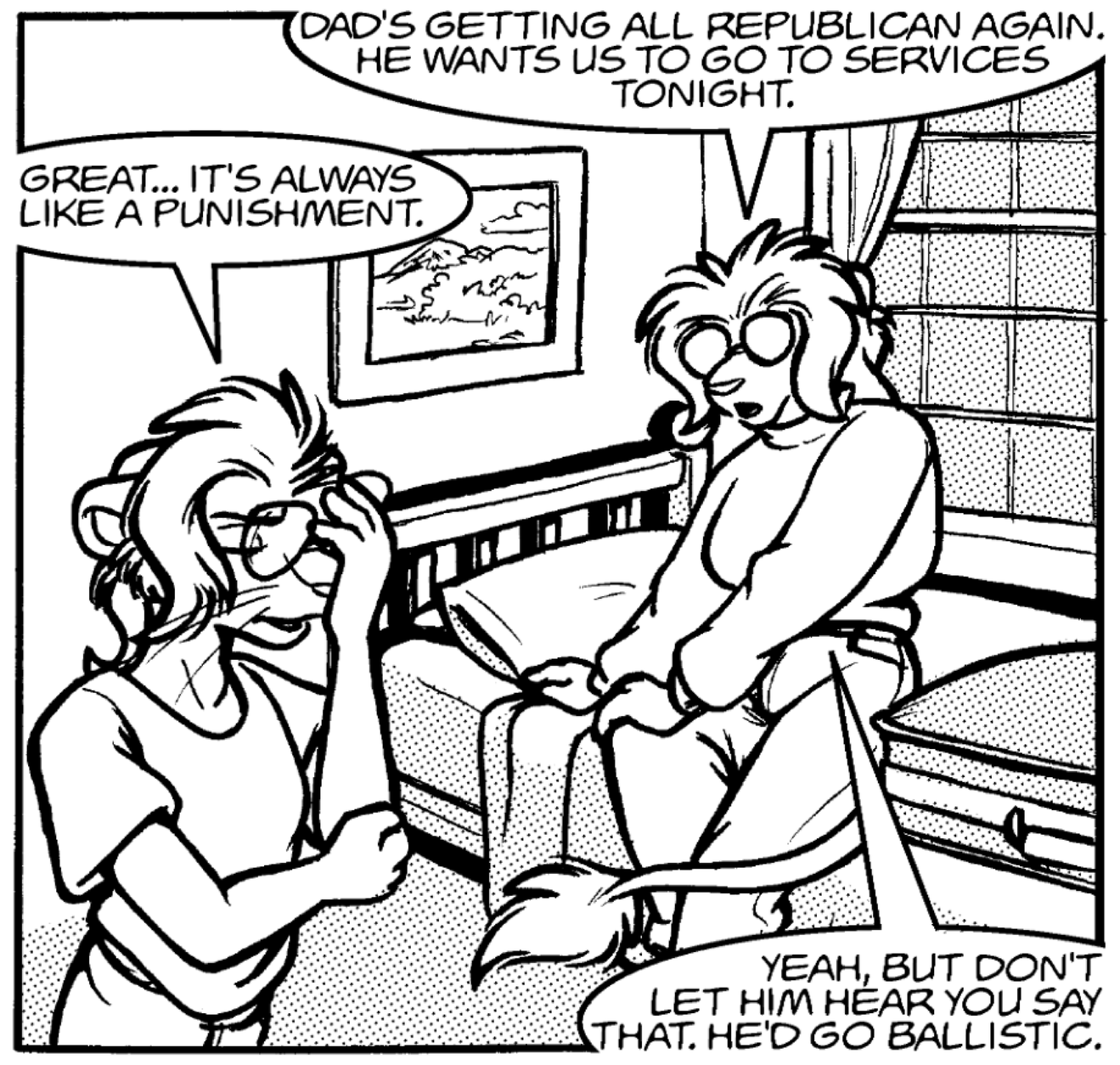
YOU'RE NOT THAT MUCH OLDER!
SEVEN YEARS, KIDDO.
WELL, YOU DON'T LOOK IT.


AREN'T YOU TURNING INTO THE CHARMER!
YEAH, WELL...

TELL ME ABOUT ALL THE GIRLS YOU'RE DATING, ROMEO!
THERE AREN'T ANY!
OH, I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT!

NOT ONE GIRL?
UM, NOT REALLY... I MEAN, ALLISON AND I ARE JUST FRIENDS...
AH HA! I KNEW IT! YOU GOT A GIRLFRIEND!
IF YOU SAY SO...

OH, BY THE WAY, YOU'D BETTER DIG YOUR SUNDAY BEST OUT OF THE CLOSET.
WHY?


DAD'S GETTING ALL REPUBLICAN AGAIN. HE WANTS US TO GO TO SERVICES TONIGHT.
GREAT... IT'S ALWAYS LIKE A PUNISHMENT.
YEAH, BUT DON'T LET HIM HEAR YOU SAY THAT. HE'D GO BALLISTIC.

MICHAEL'S BEEN GETTING IN TROUBLE AGAIN. DAD THINKS CHURCH WILL STRAIGHTEN HIM OUT.
FAT CHANCE.

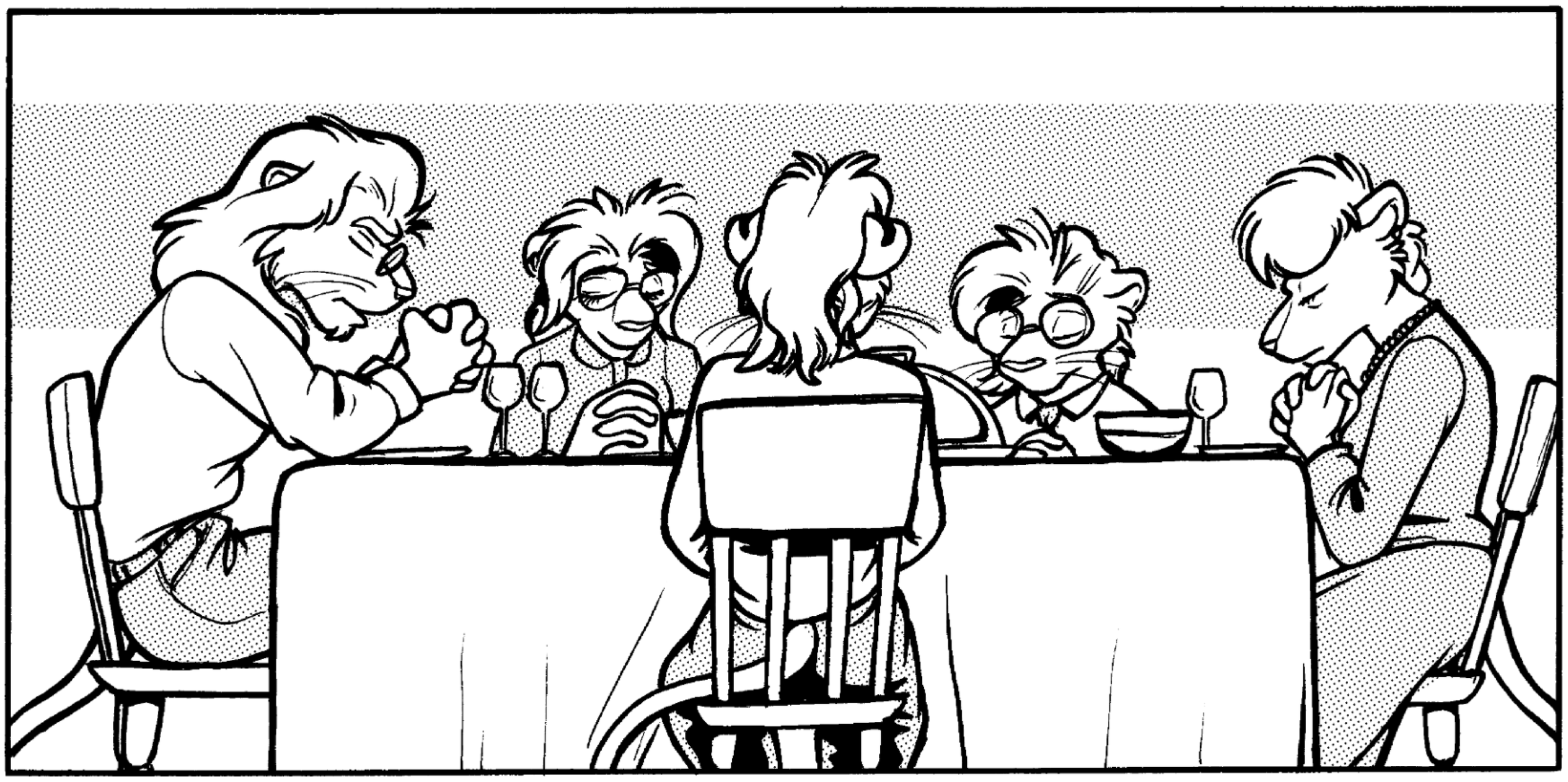
WHEN OUR LORD SENT HIS SON INTO THIS WORLD, HE COULD HAVE SENT HIM AS A MAN. YET HE CHOSE TO PLACE HIM IN A FAMILY, TO GROW UP WITH A MORTAL MOTHER, DAUGHTER OF EVE, AND A MORTAL FATHER, SON OF ADAM. SO IMPORTANT, SO PRECIOUS IS THE BONDS OF A MORTAL FAMILY, THAT OUR LORD CHOSE THIS ABOVE ALL THINGS AS THE PLACE FOR HIS VERY OWN SON.

THIS TIME OF YEAR, WHEN WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR, IS A TIME FOR FAMILY. REFLECT ON THIS AS WE SING.

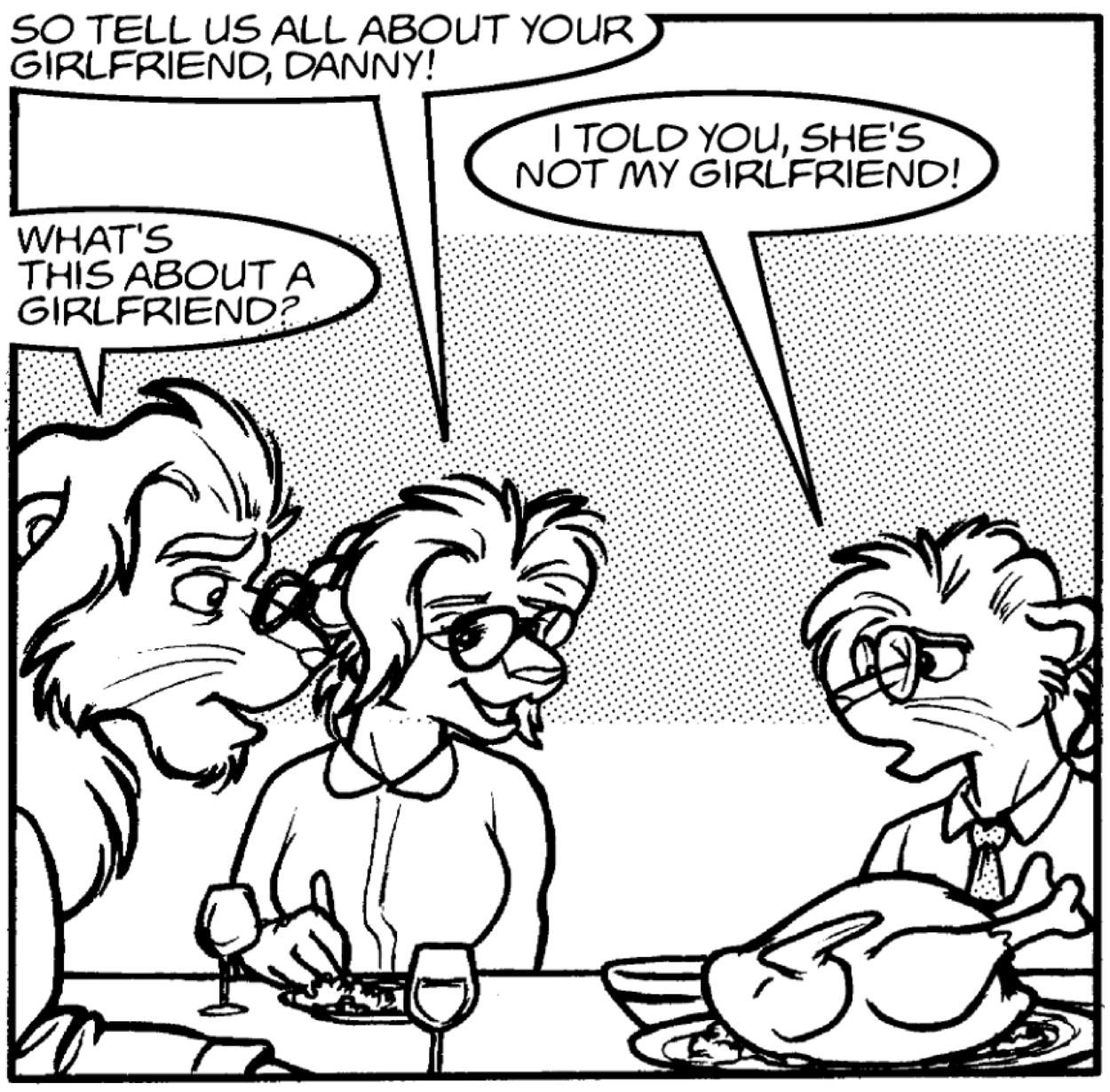
UNDER HIS GUIDING LOVING HAND,
SAFE WITHIN OUR LORD'S COMMANDS
CHILDREN OBEDIENT TO HIM
WE LIVE FOREVER, FREE OF SIN

WITHIN HIS LAW WE ALL LIVE FREE
SAVED FOR ALL ETERNITY
HEAVEN WAITS FOR ALL WHO TRUST
OUR FATHER'S WORD IS TRUE AND JUST

AMEN.



ALL RIGHT, LET'S EAT!
GNARLY! THIS LOOKS GREAT, MOM.
YOU NEVER MET A DINNER YOU DIDN'T LIKE, MICHAEL.


SO TELL US ALL ABOUT YOUR GIRLFRIEND, DANNY!
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A GIRLFRIEND?
I TOLD YOU, SHE'S NOT MY GIRLFRIEND!

DANNY HAS A LADY BACK AT SCHOOL NAMED ALLISON!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SEEING THIS ALLISON?
GIVE IT A REST, WOULD YOU?

STEPHANIE, STOP TEASING YOUR BROTHER.
YEAH, LIKE DANNY WOULD EVER GET A GIRL.
THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR YOU, MICHAEL.

WHAT'S ALLISON LIKE?
NOT YOU, TOO...
WE JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR LIFE.
OKAY, FINE... SHE'S A SOPHOMORE, SHE LIKES TOLKIEN, AND SHE'S A LION.

A LION, YOU SAY?
LOOK, SHE'S JUST A FRIEND, OKAY? WE HAD THE SAME ENGLISH CLASS. THAT'S ALL IT'LL EVER BE!

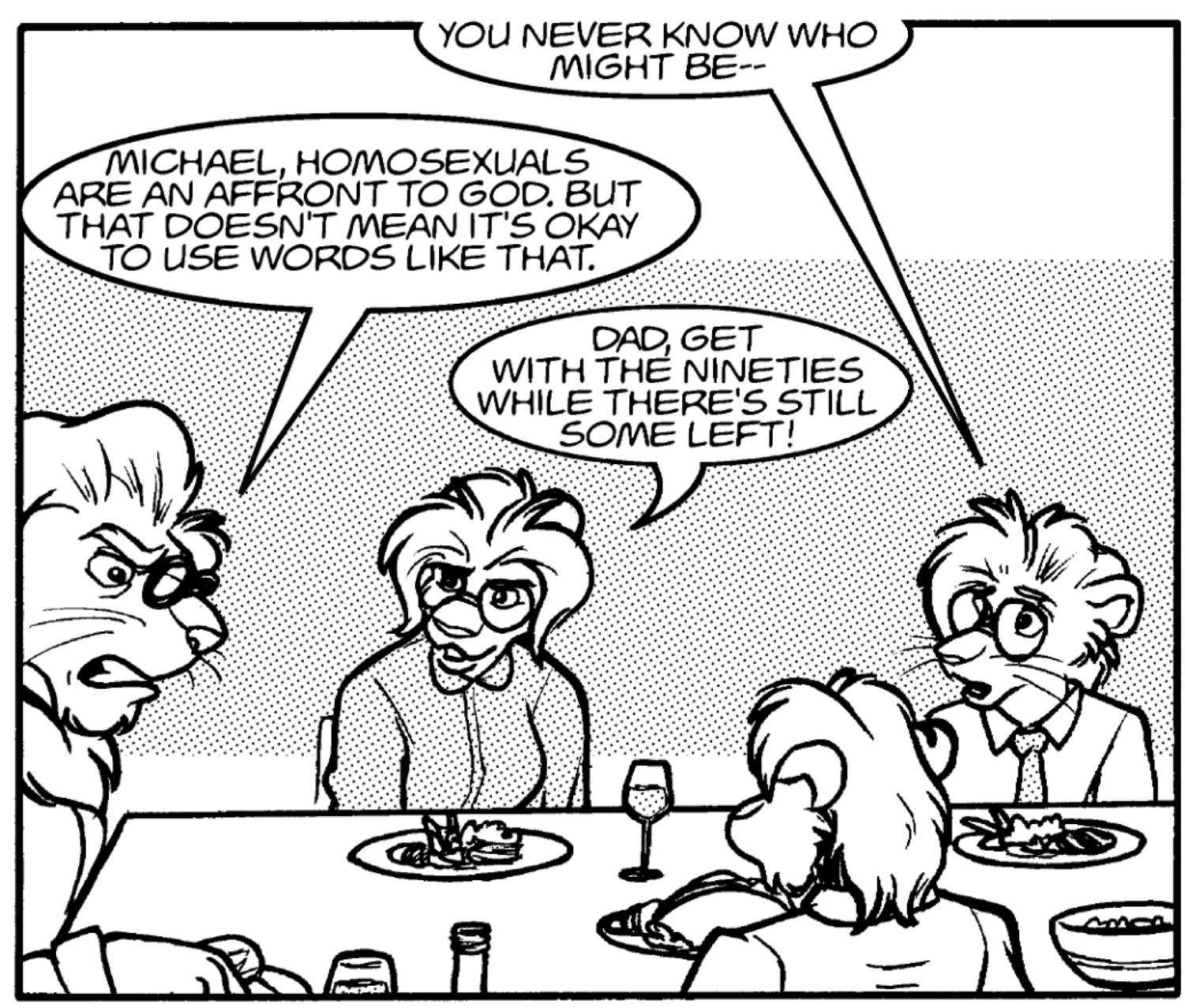
DANNY WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH A GIRL.
MICHAEL, SHUT UP!

MAYBE DANNY DOESN'T WANT A GIRLFRIEND RIGHT NOW.
THAT'S RIGHT, I'M NOT LOOKING FOR--
MAYBE DANNY WANTS A BOYFRIEND INSTEAD.

YOU TURNING INTO A FAG?

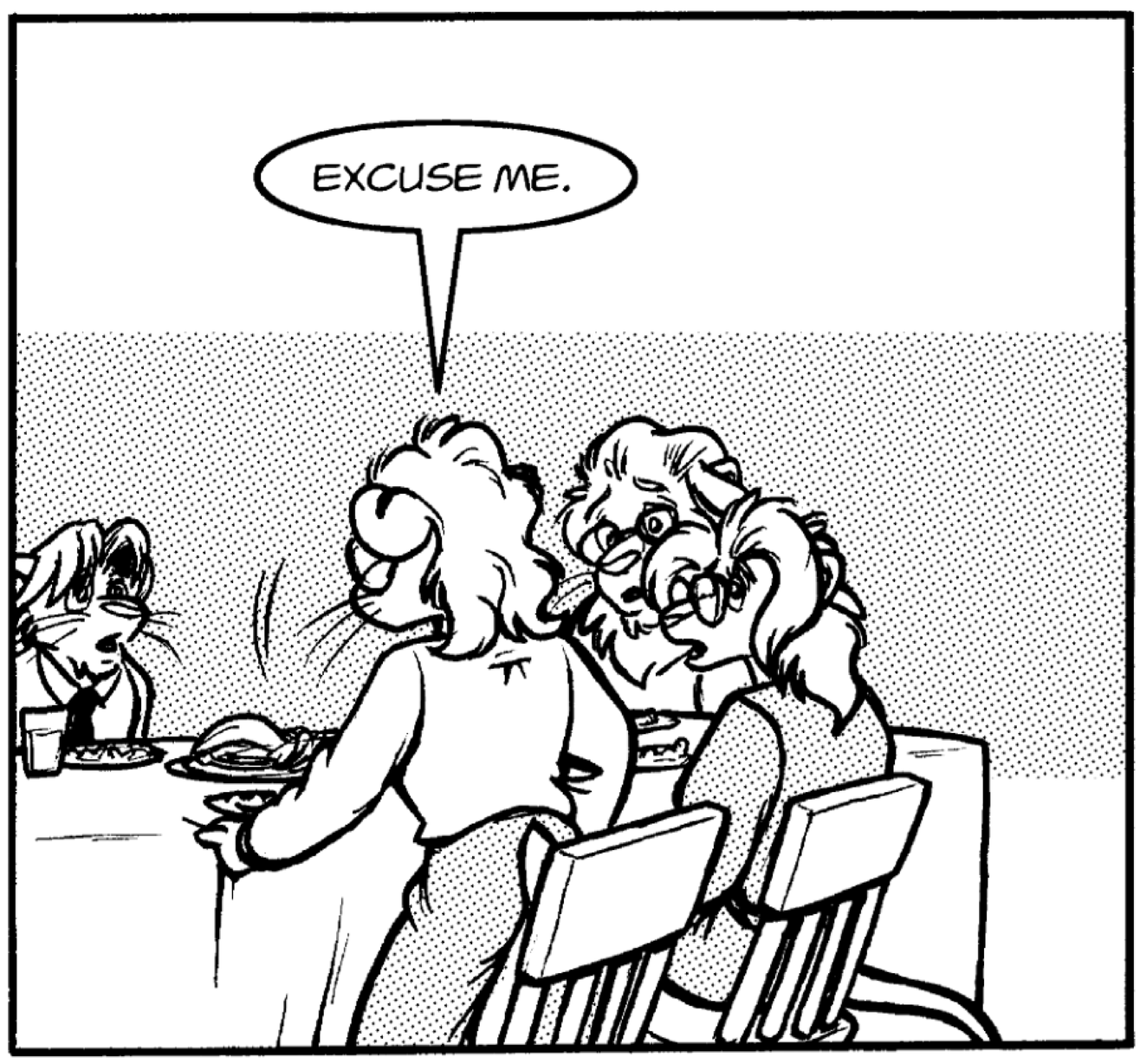
MICHAEL, WE DO NOT USE WORDS LIKE THAT IN THIS HOUSE!
BUT, DAD, THEY--
I MEAN IT.
CLINK

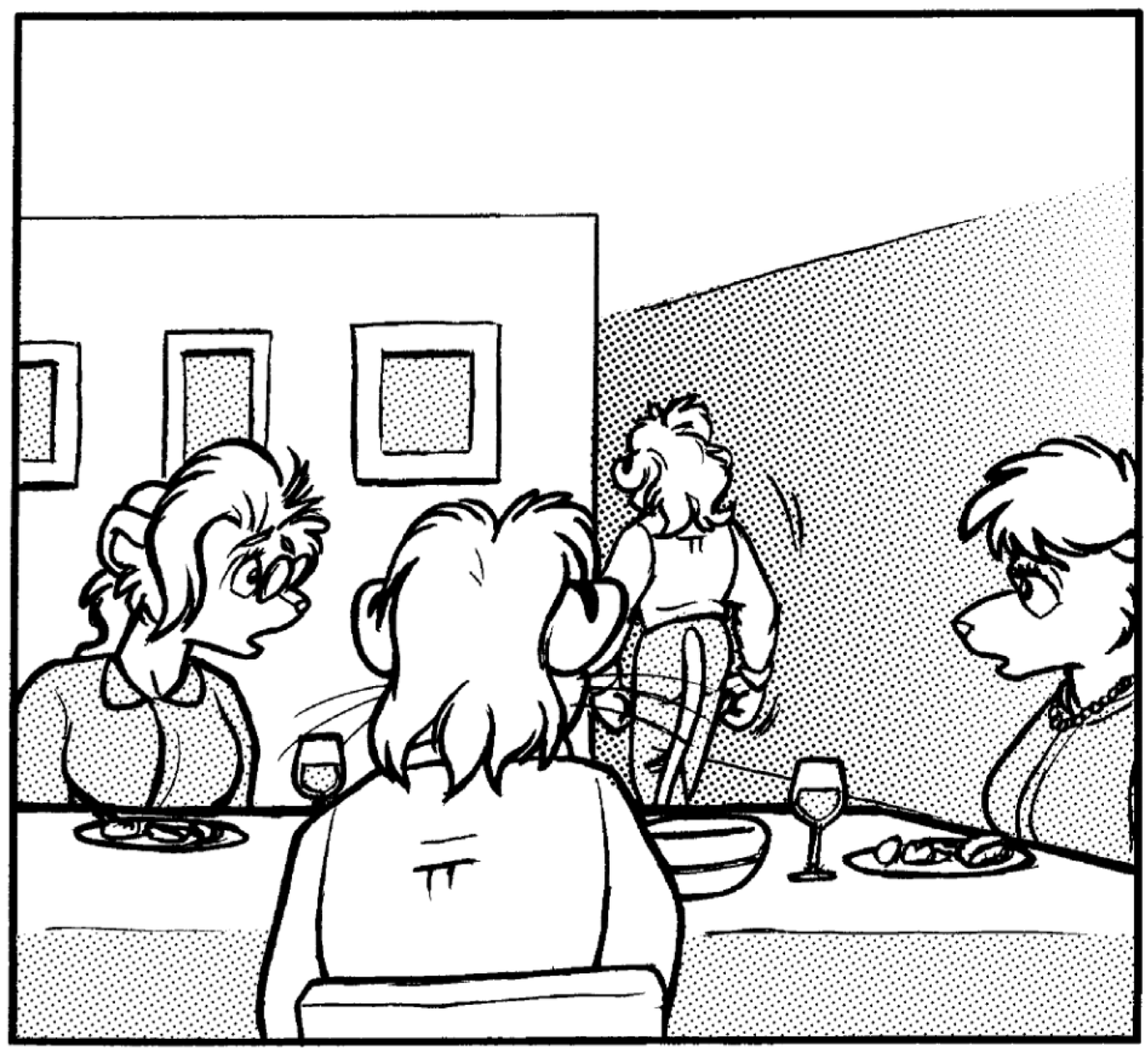
I WON'T HAVE GUTTER-TALK COMING FROM MY SON AT MY TABLE.
LAME...
YEAH, MIKE, GAYS ARE PEOPLE TOO!


YOU NEVER KNOW WHO MIGHT BE--
MICHAEL, HOMOSEXUALS ARE AN AFFRONT TO GOD. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT'S OKAY TO USE WORDS LIKE THAT.
DAD, GET WITH THE NINETIES WHILE THERE'S STILL SOME LEFT!

AND I WILL NOT HAVE YOU ACCUSING YOUR BROTHER OF BEING GAY, EVEN AS A JOKE!
I DIDN'T MEAN--
APOLOGIZE!

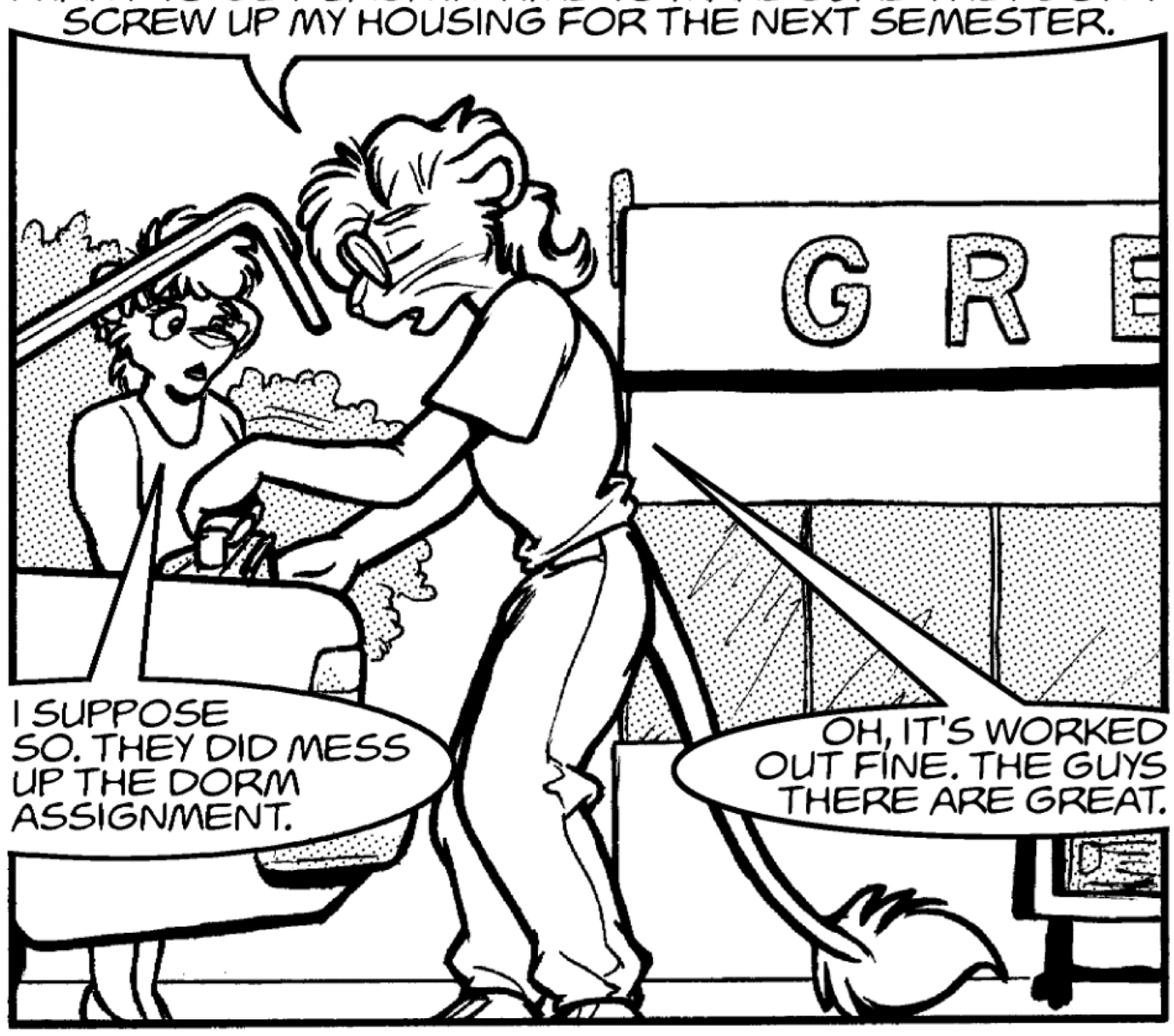
I'M SORRY, DANNY. I DIDN'T MEAN IT.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT.
DANIEL--
FROM YOU EITHER, DAD.


EXCUSE ME.

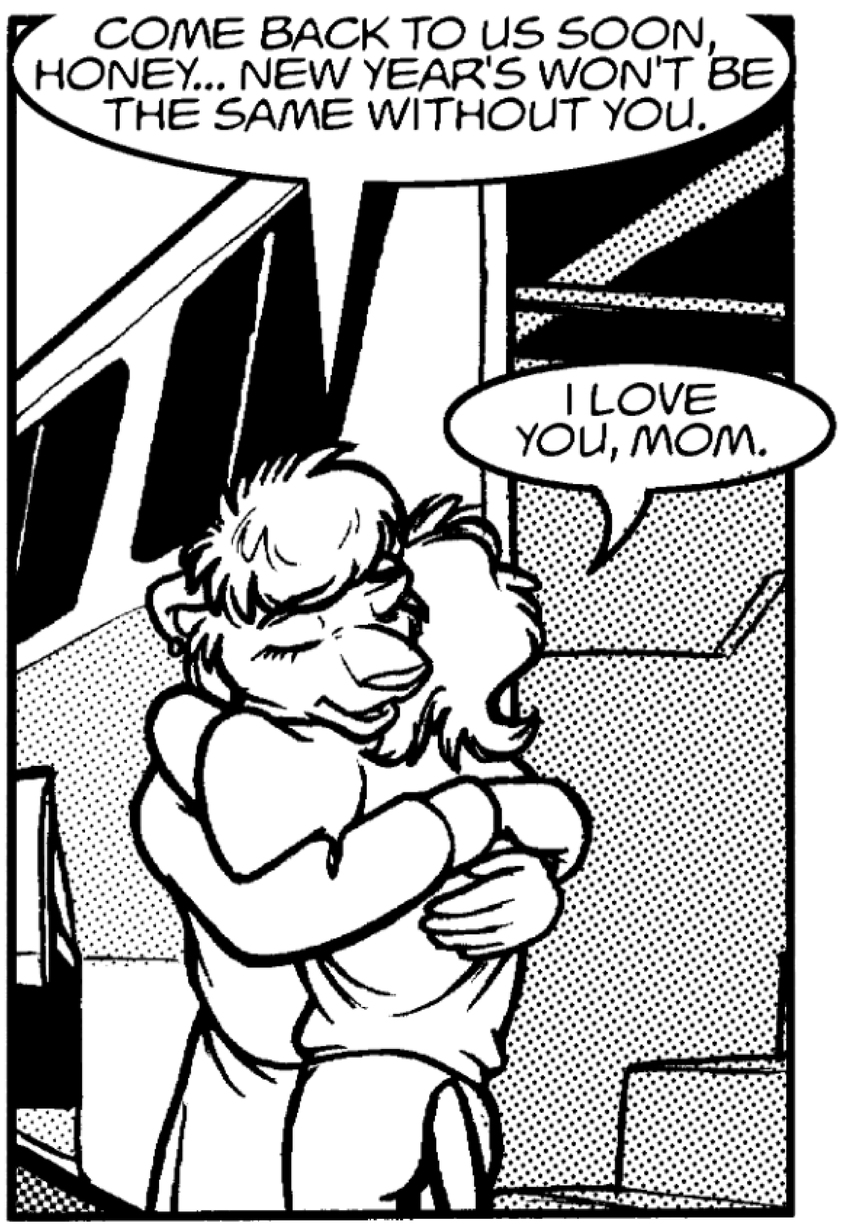


GOOD GOING, LOSER.
AT LEAST HE'S STARTING TO STICK UP FOR HIMSELF...
IT'S ABOUT TIME.

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
YEAH...


I WANT TO GET BACK IN TIME TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T SCREW UP MY HOUSING FOR THE NEXT SEMESTER.
I SUPPOSE SO. THEY DID MESS UP THE DORM ASSIGNMENT.
OH, IT'S WORKED OUT FINE. THE GUYS THERE ARE GREAT.

I'M JUST AFRAID OF LOSING WHAT I HAVE.


COME BACK TO US SOON, HONEY... NEW YEAR'S WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU.
I LOVE YOU, MOM.

I'M BACK!
WHAT--I THOUGHT YOU WERE HOME FOR ANOTHER WEEK!

THIS IS HOME.

END.

LEATHER AND STEEL

ART BY ZJONNI

STORY BY LANCE RUND

I'M GONNA TAKE HER FOR A RIDE DOWN TO THE "RUSTY NAIL". I NEED ME A PRETTY- BOY ON THE BACK.
YAY!
NOT YOU...

...HIM.

I SAID "BOY", NOT "LITTLE GIRL".
AWW...

SHOULDN'T YOU TAKE VINCE?
HE AIN'T GONNA BE BACK TIL LATE TONIGHT.

BESIDES, IT'LL DO YOU GOOD TO SEE REAL MEN.

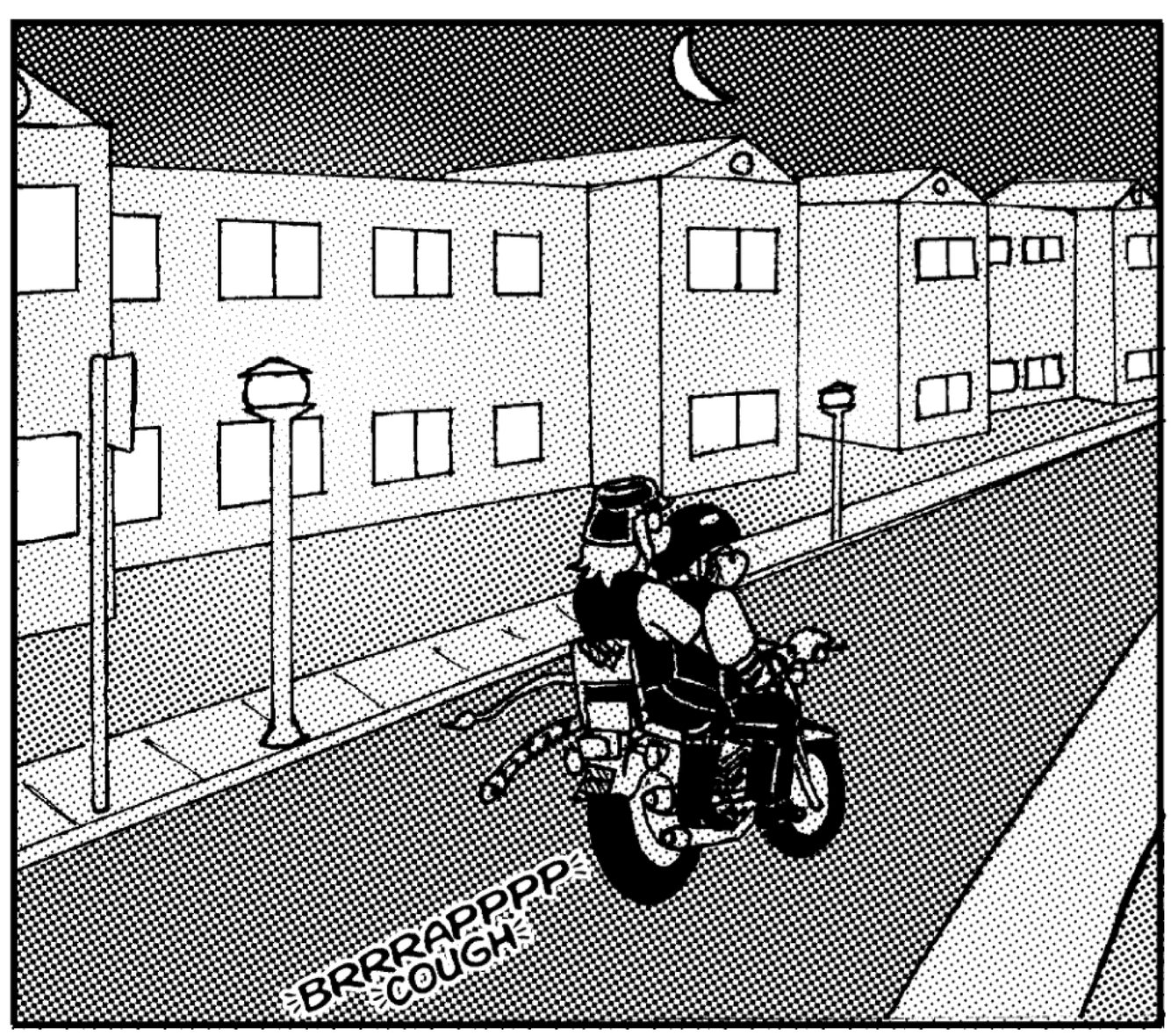
GO ON, DANNY, AND TELL ME ABOUT THE REAL MEN. ≻giggle≺
OKAY, BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN ON A MOTOR-CYCLE BEFORE...
NO PROB! I GOT SOME GEAR THAT'LL FIT YA!

OOOF!
YOU NEED A HAND THERE?
NOW AIN'T YOU CUTE! HERE, YOU JUST NEED ONE THING...
THESE PANTS ARE TIGHT!

I LOOK LIKE A VILLAGE PEOPLE.
MY FAVORITE! MUSIC WITH MEANING!

I WANNA TRY IT ON!
ME FIRST! I'M THE ONE THAT PAID FOR IT THIS TIME!
OH LOOK, RICKY! TWINS!
YOU HUSH, GIRL.

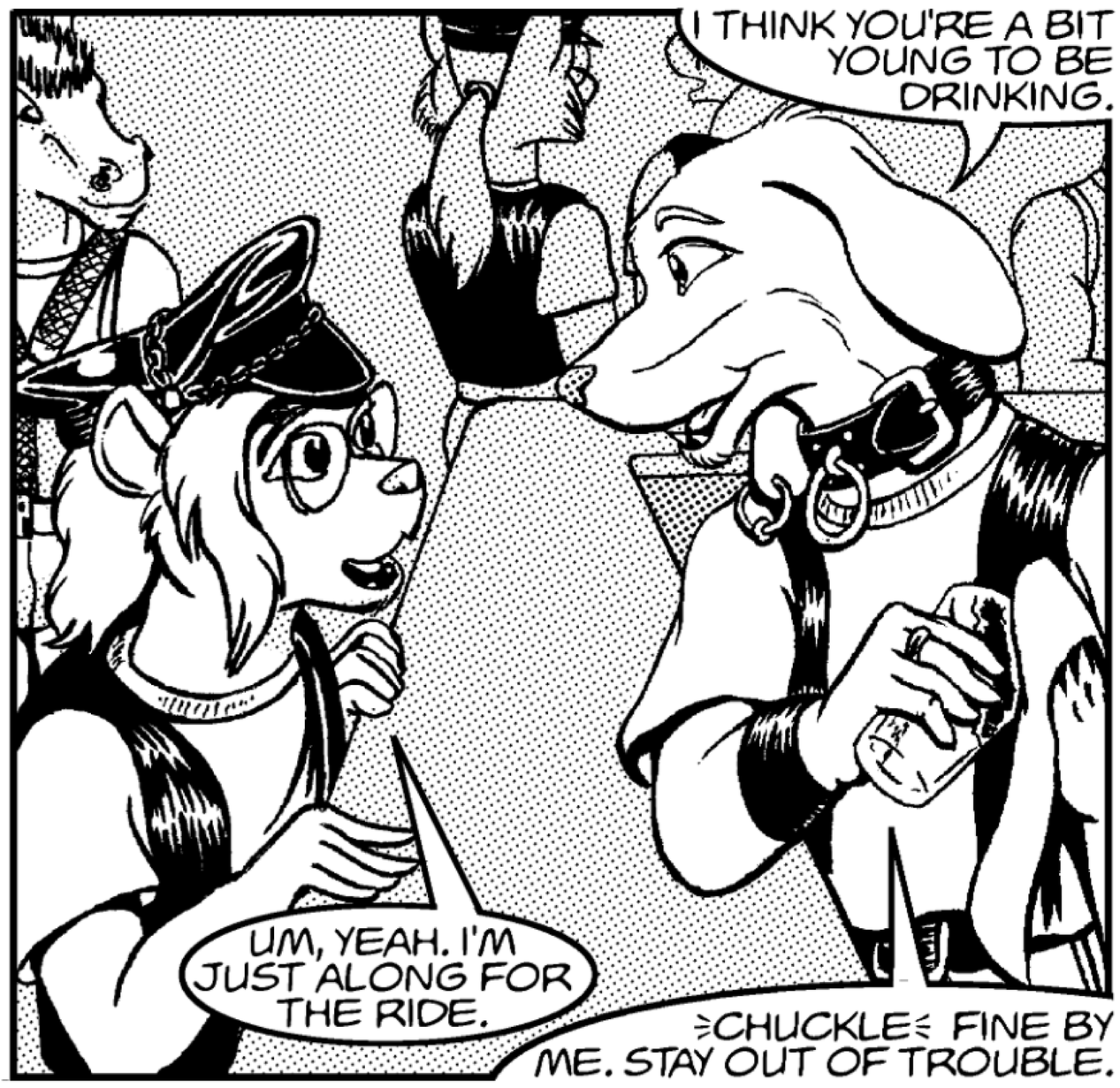
HERE'S YOUR LID, NOW CLIMB ON, TUCK YOUR HAT 'TWEEN US AND HANG ON TO ME TIGHT!


BRRRAPPPP
COUGH

The Rusty Nail
PARKING IN REAR
BLAT BLAT BLAT
WHATCHA THINK? NICE BIKE, AIN'T IT?
MY BUTT'S NUMB.
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT LATER.
UM.
C'MON, LET'S GO IN. I'M DRY.
NOW THESE ARE MY KIND OF GUYS.

HEY, DAVE!

YOU'RE IN EARLY, TIGER. WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?
HI, I'M DANIEL...


I THINK YOU'RE A BIT YOUNG TO BE DRINKING.
UM, YEAH. I'M JUST ALONG FOR THE RIDE.
=CHUCKLE= FINE BY ME. STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.

WELL, LOOKIE HERE.... A LITTLE LEATHERMAN!

THAT'S MY LITTLE LEATHERMAN, CHUM. LOOK BUT DON'T TOUCH.
NO SWEAT, MAN. JUST WINDOW-SHOPPING.

I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THIS.
AWW, RELAX. THEY'RE JUST CHECKIN' YOU OUT. AIN'T NO ONE GONNA HASSLE YA.

'CEPT ME.

NOW, WHAT YOU NEED IS A MAN LIKE ME TO--
EXCUSE ME...

YEAH, WHAT DO YOU...

...WANT?

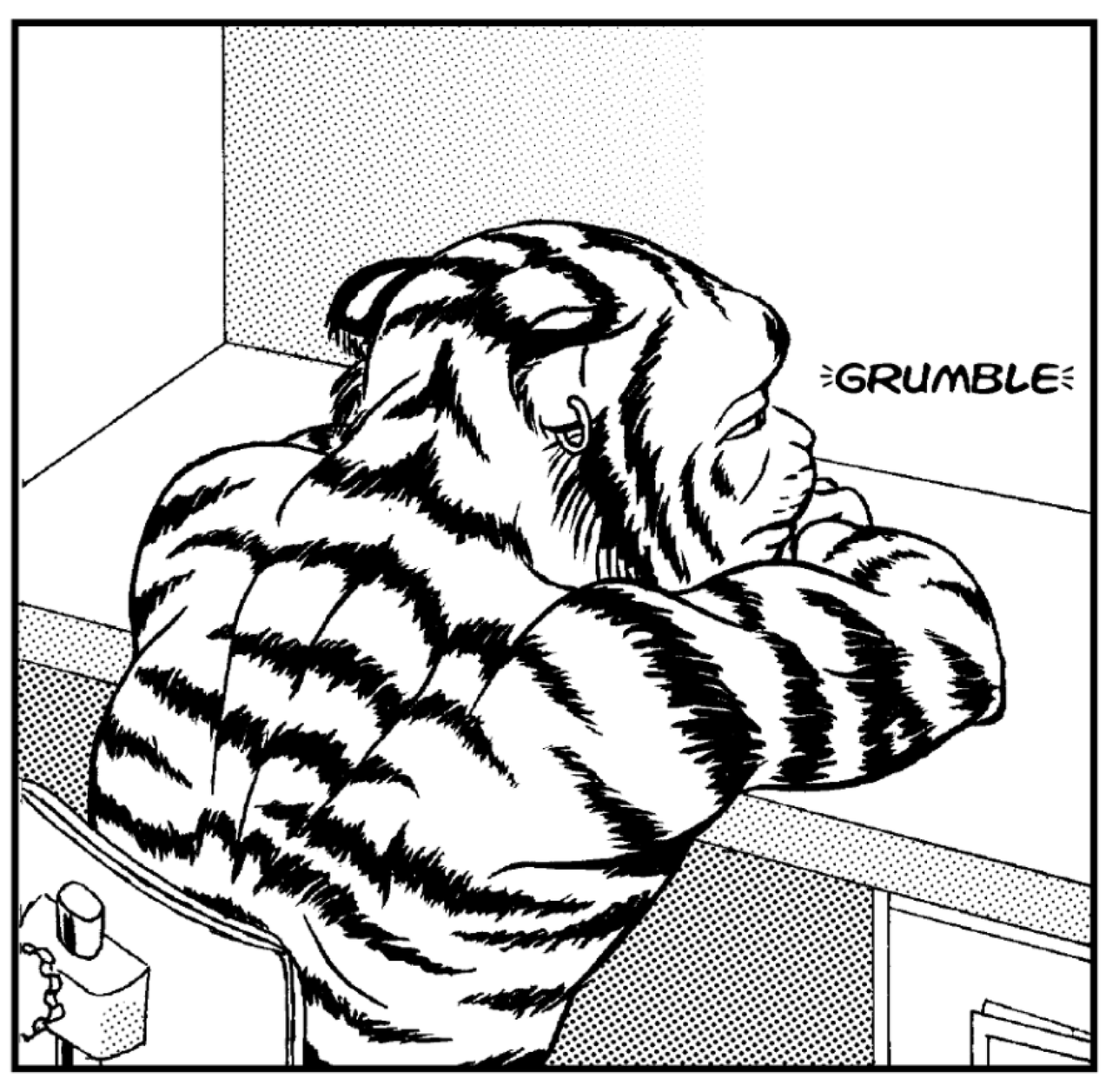
CAN I BORROW YOUR KITTY, TIGER?
JESUS...
ROY!

AND WHAT'S A NICE GUY LIKE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
TAKING YOUR ADVICE! I HAD A CHANCE TO TRY SOMETHING NEW, SO I TOOK IT!
WHAT...

WHERE ARE MY MANNERS... DAVID, THIS IS ROY. ROY, THIS IS DAVID. HE LIVES NEXT DOOR TO ME.
LUCKY DEVIL!
PLEASED T'MEETCHA.
BASTARD.

WHAT'VE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE THE PARADE?
OH, MOSTLY KEEPING CHRISTOPHER HAPPY. THAT'S A FULL-TIME JOB.
YOU TWO HAVE FUN. I'M GONNA GET ME A DRINK.

GIMME ANOTHER BEER. AND A TWO-BY-FOUR.
FEELING INADEQUATE, FOR A CHANGE?
AWW, SHUDDUP.


GRUMBLE

I'M HOME, MISTER DAVID!
HEYA.
LELAND

HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?
I THINK I'M LOSING MY TOUCH.

I TOOK DANIEL DOWN TO THE RUSTY NAIL, AND HE WENT OFF WITH SOME BIG SLAB OF A LION... THAT'S TWICE NOW I'VE TRIED. I AIN'T USED TO FAILURE!
AWW...

DON'T FEEL BAD. HE JUST DOESN'T REALIZE HOW SPECIAL YOU ARE... YET. HE WILL.
YOU THINK SO?
OH, I KNOW IT!

AND YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY SPECIAL TIGER... BIG, BUFF, AND BEAUTIFUL...
YEAH...

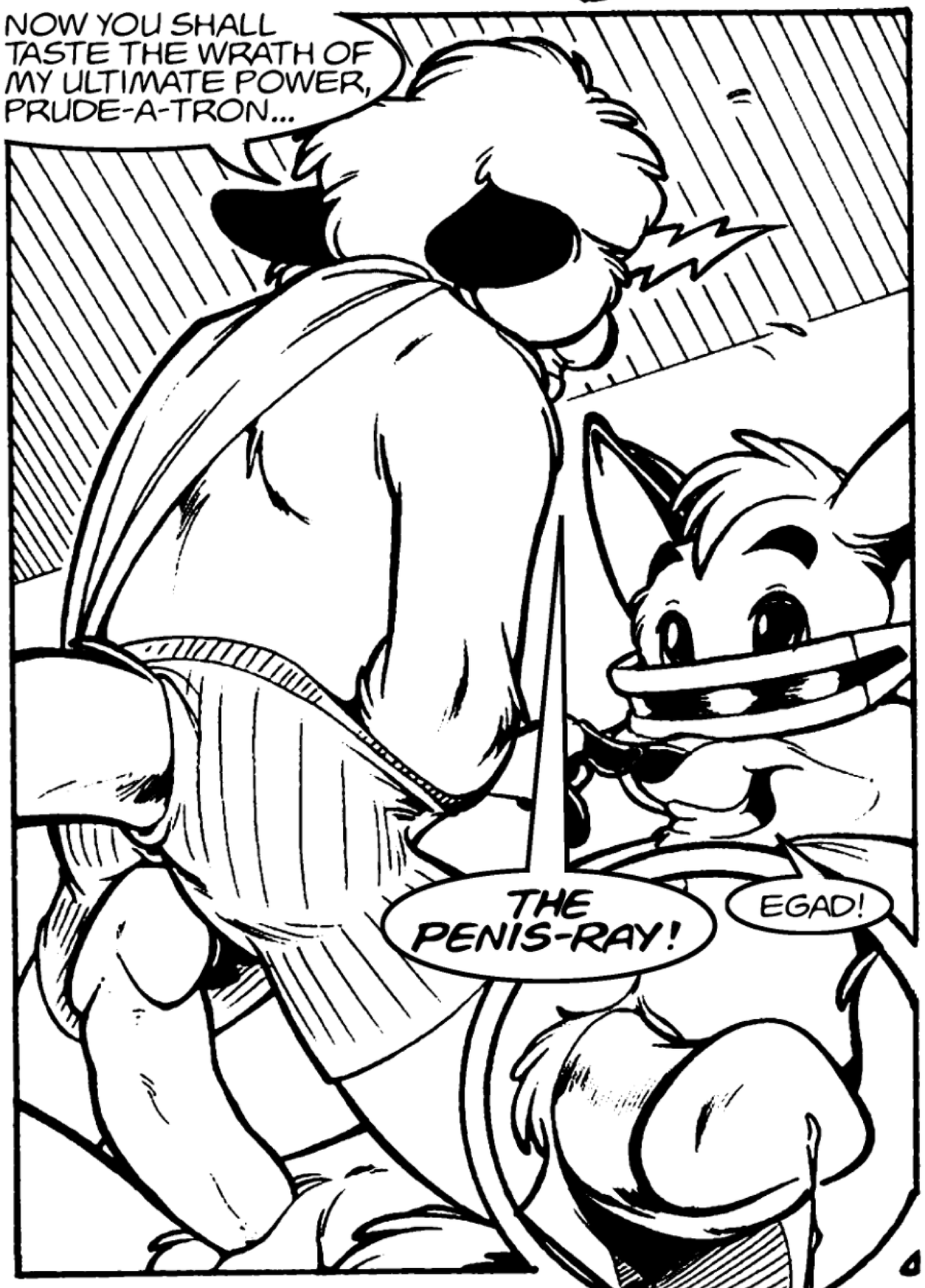
PLEASE DON'T EAT ME, MISTER TIGER?
OH, I'M GONNA EAT YA, LITTLE DEER...

AND I THINK I'LL START WITH THIS TASTY LITTLE BIT RIGHT HERE...
SQUEAL!

END.

THE ADVENTURES OF QUEERMAN™

STARRING TIMOTHY MONTGOMERY
STORY BY LANCE RUND – ART BY CHUCK DAVIES



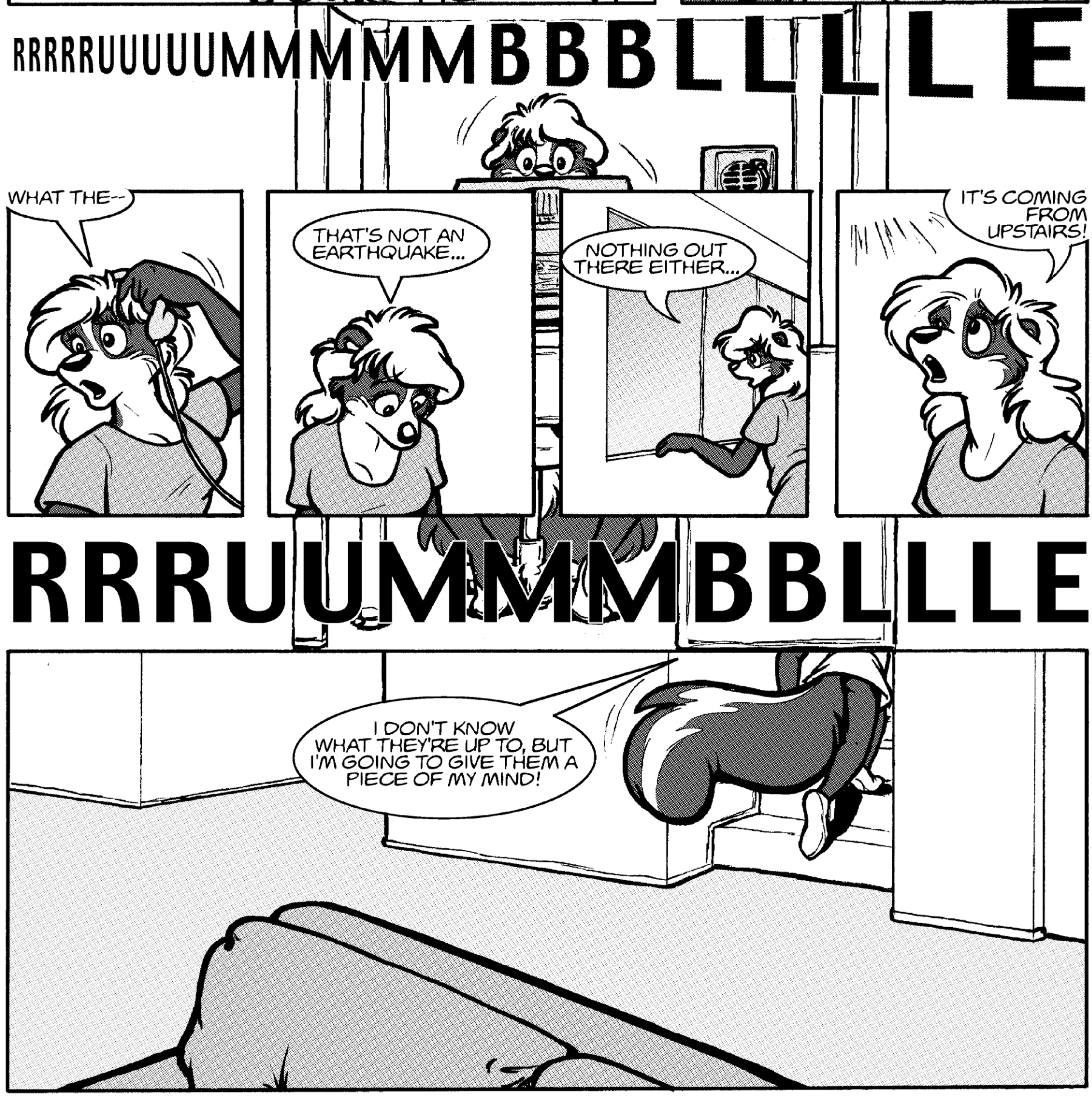
END.

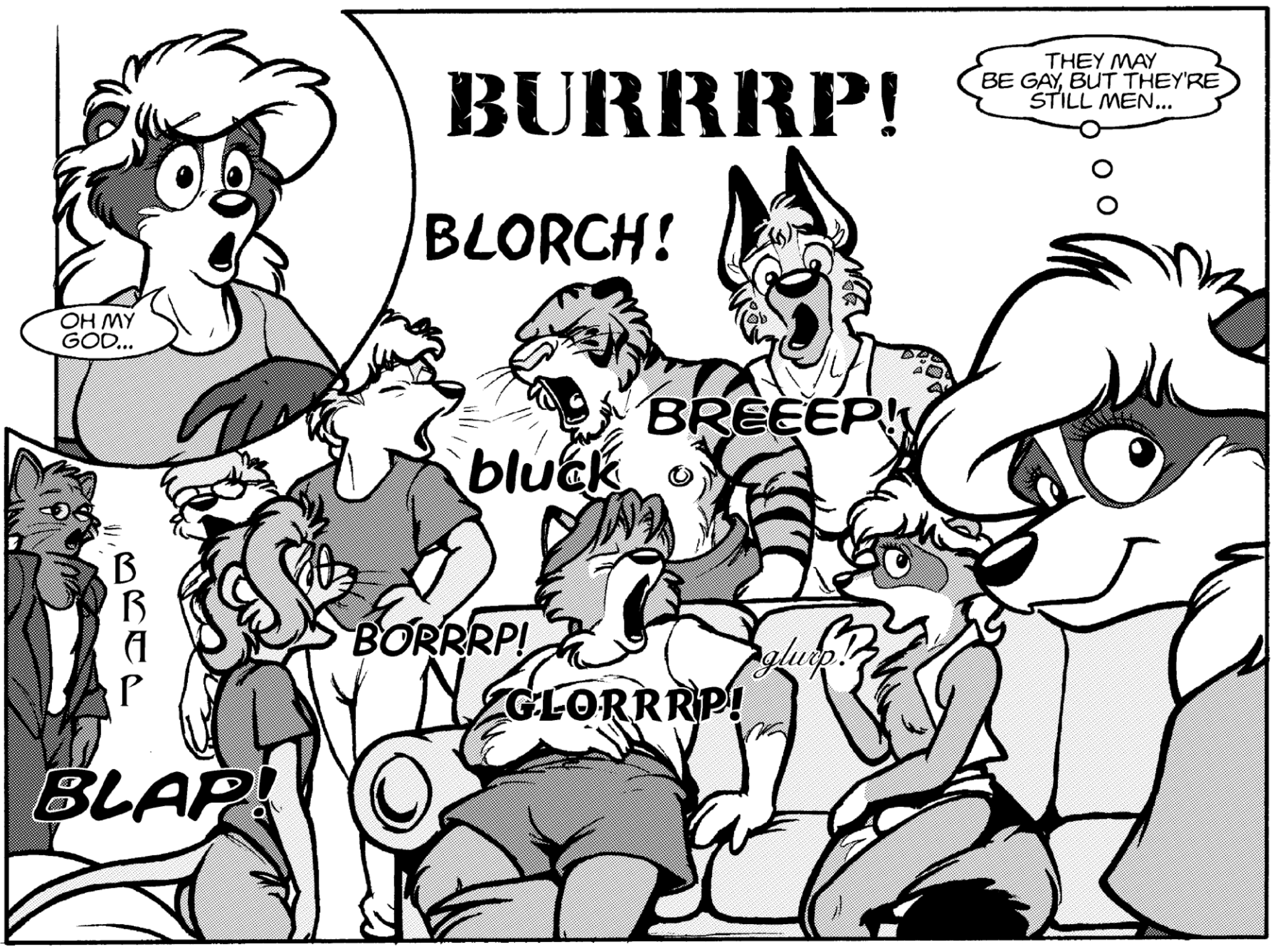
RICHTER SCALE MALES

ART BY CHRIS MCKINLEY

WRITTEN BY LANCE RUND

RRRRRUUUUUMMMMMBBBLLLLLE




BURRRP!
THEY MAY BE GAY, BUT THEY'RE STILL MEN...
BLORCH!
OH MY GOD...
BREEEP!
bluck
BRAP
BORRRP!
glurp!
GLORRRP!
BLAP!

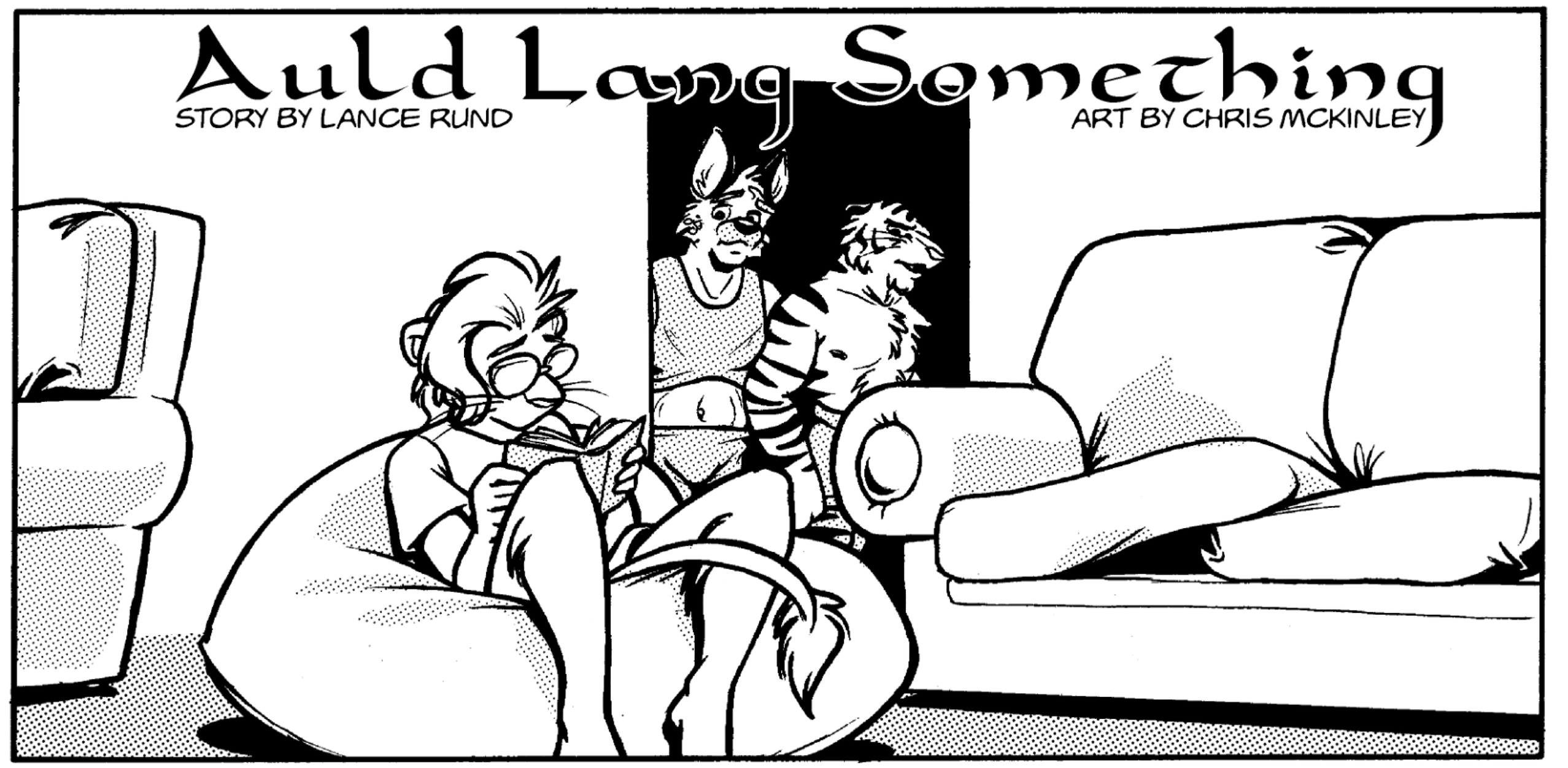
BRRRAARRP

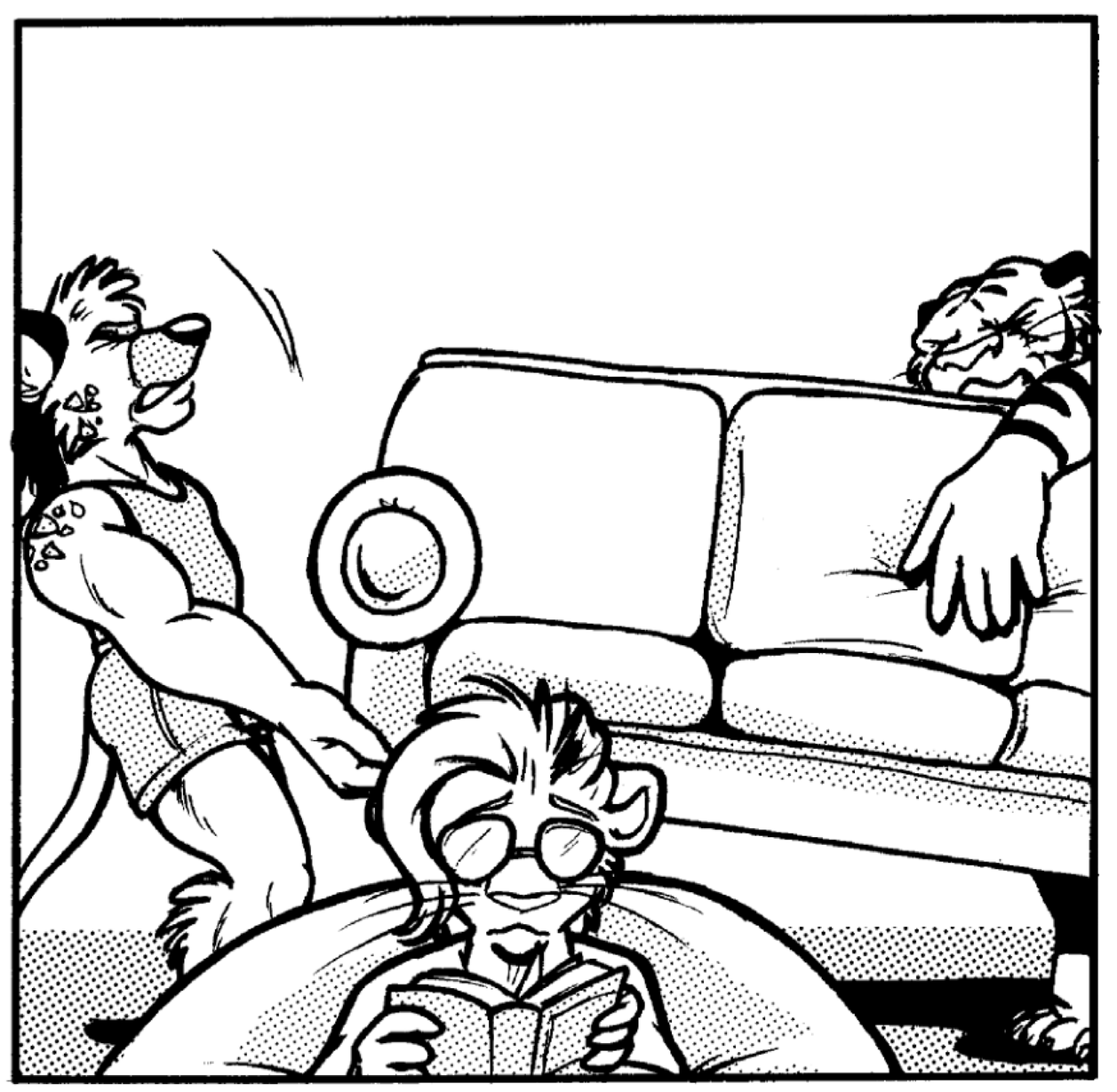
STAIRS
...WHICH MEANS THEY HAVE TO BE PUT IN THEIR PLACE.
YAY!

Auld Lang Something

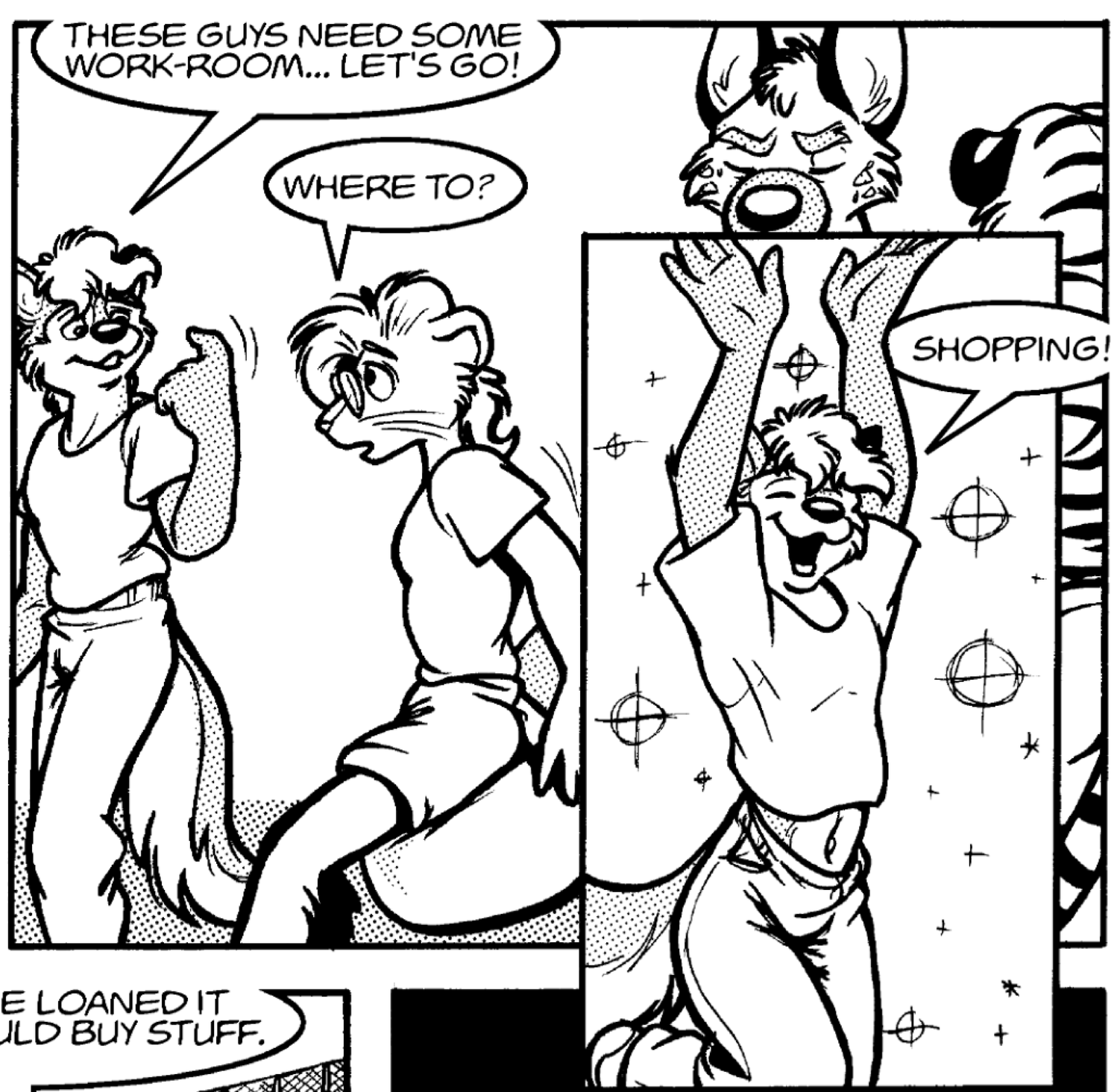
STORY BY LANCE RUND

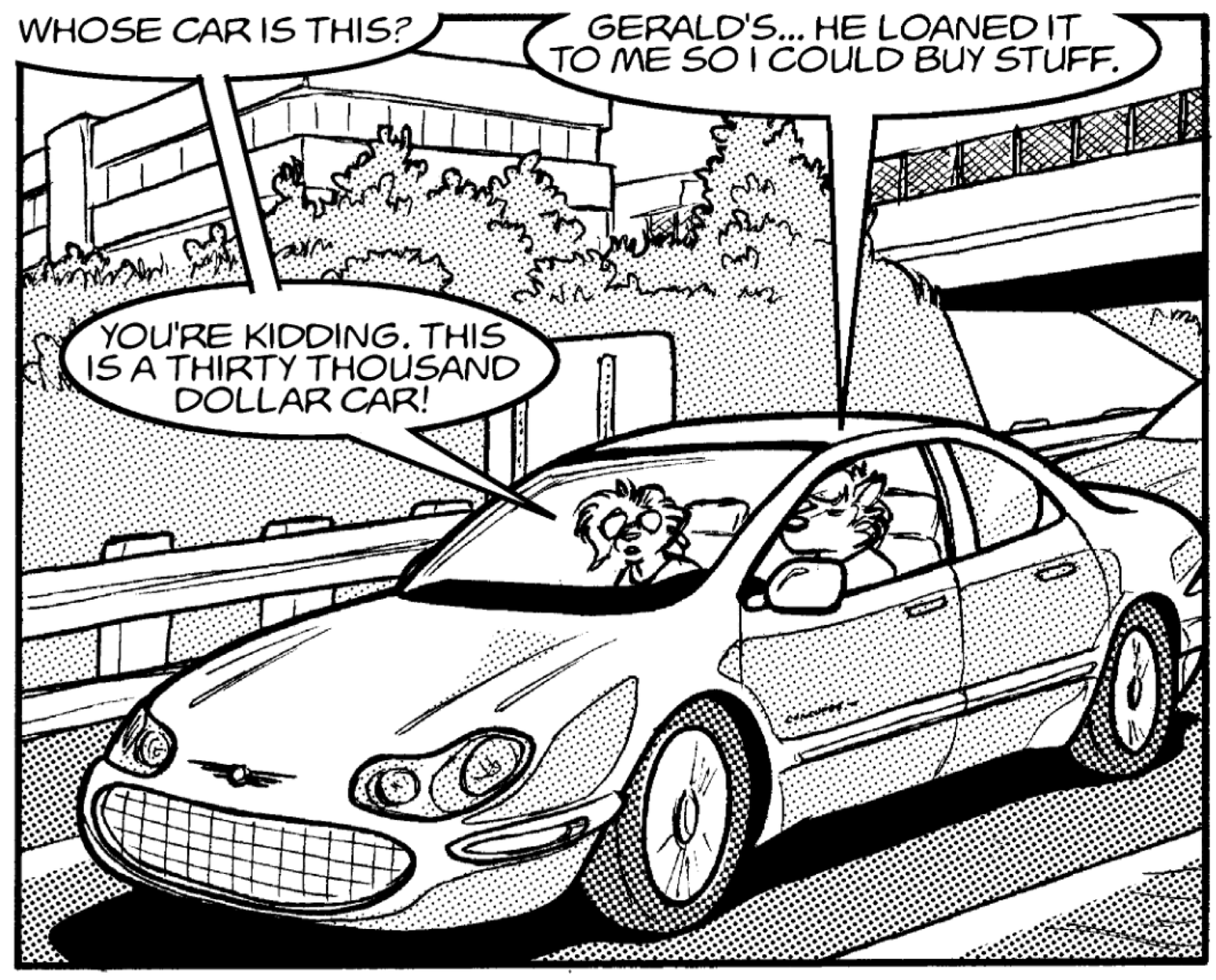
ART BY CHRIS MCKINLEY





YOU'LL FIND OUT ALL TOO SOON, KID.
THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF!


THESE GUYS NEED SOME WORK-ROOM... LET'S GO!
WHERE TO?
SHOPPING!


WHOSE CAR IS THIS?
GERALD'S... HE LOANED IT TO ME SO I COULD BUY STUFF.
YOU'RE KIDDING. THIS IS A THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLAR CAR!

FOREST FANTASY
ADULT BOOKS
MOVIES
NOVELTIES
GERALD'S FAMILY IS REALLY RICH. EVEN MORE THAN NIGEL'S.
I HAD NO IDEA.
YEAH, AND IT PISSES NIGEL OFF NO END!

ARE YOU SERIOUSLY SUPPOSED TO PUT THESE..?
I'M HERE TO PICK UP THE SEBASTIAN ORDER.
EMPLOYEES
LET ME GO GET THE HAND TRUCK...
HOOFE

JUST WHAT IS ALL THIS STUFF FOR?
AIN'T GONNA TELL YOU.
WHIMPER
SEBASTIAN
SEBASTIAN
LET'S HURRY UP... I WANT TO DRIVE THIS YUMMY CAR SOME MORE!

blah blah blah IT IS MY HONOR blah blah blah THIS GREAT INSTITUTION blah blah blah HALLOWED TRADITION blah blah blah SAY GOODBYE TO 1998, LELAND!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

1999

LELAND U. STUDENT ACTIVITIES

HERE COMES THE LAST BIG WIND OF THE YEAR...

5... 4... 3... 2... 1... HAPPY NEW YEAR!
SHOULD OLD ACQUAINTENCE BE FORGOT...
YOU LIKE THE FIREWORKS?
I LOVE THEM.
WHERE ARE WE GOING? THE PARTY'S JUST STARTING...
WE'VE GOT SOMEWHERE ELSE TO BE NOW.
MORE CONSPIRACY?
YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT.

WHY'S EVERYTHING TURNED OFF?
WE DON'T WANT TO BE DISTURBED.
STAIRS
CLOSED
DURING REMODEL
OUT OF ORDER

YOU'RE SURE GOING TO A LOT OF TROUBLE. JUST WHAT'S--

MAY I TAKE YOUR JACKET AND PANTS, MISTER WOLF?
IT'S A LITTLE TRADITION WE HAVE FOR NEW YEAR'S.
ZZZZZIP
WHAT... WHAT...

TONIGHT WE RELAX AND JUST... ENJOY EACH OTHER. TO HELL WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD, TO HELL WITH ARGUMENTS WE MIGHT HAVE HAD.
QUITE HEALING, I THINK.

ARE YOU COMFORTABLE WITH THIS?
SURE, I MEAN, GO AHEAD, I'LL JUST WATCH FOR NOW.
TAKE NOTES.

WHAT'CHA DRINKING, KID?
UM, I DON'T CARE FOR MUCH BESIDES WINE...
GOT JUST THE THING FOR YA. IT'LL HELP YOU RELAX.

HEY, THIS IS GOOD. WHAT IS IT?
LONG ISLAND ICED TEA. BOTTOMS UP! TELL ME WHEN YOU WANT A RELOAD.

I'M SO GLAD MARCUS AND NIGEL ARE GETTING ALONG...
YES, JUST LIKE THAT!
OUTCAST, AN UNWANTED SOUL...
GET LAID, GERALD.

D-DANNY... IT FEELS GOOD!
I, UM, I CAN TELL...

HE'S WANTED YOU SINCE HE FIRST SAW YOU, DANNY.
PLEASE, HOLD ME, HOLD ME!

NNNG!
SQUIT!

THANK YOU, DANNY!
FOR SHARING THE MOMENT WITH ME.
FOR WHAT?

C'MON, RICKY, LION'S GOTTA CLEAN UP
YEAH, YOU BETTER GET OUT OF THOSE WET THINGS! ≥GIGGLE≤
ACK...

WOW, HE GOT YOU PRETTY GOOD!
IT HAD TO HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER... IT'S RICKY.

HERE, LET ME HELP YOU WITH THAT...
THANKS... THIS IS SOAKED!

NOW I'M ALL JEALOUS OF RICKY.
YEAH...
YOU ARE?

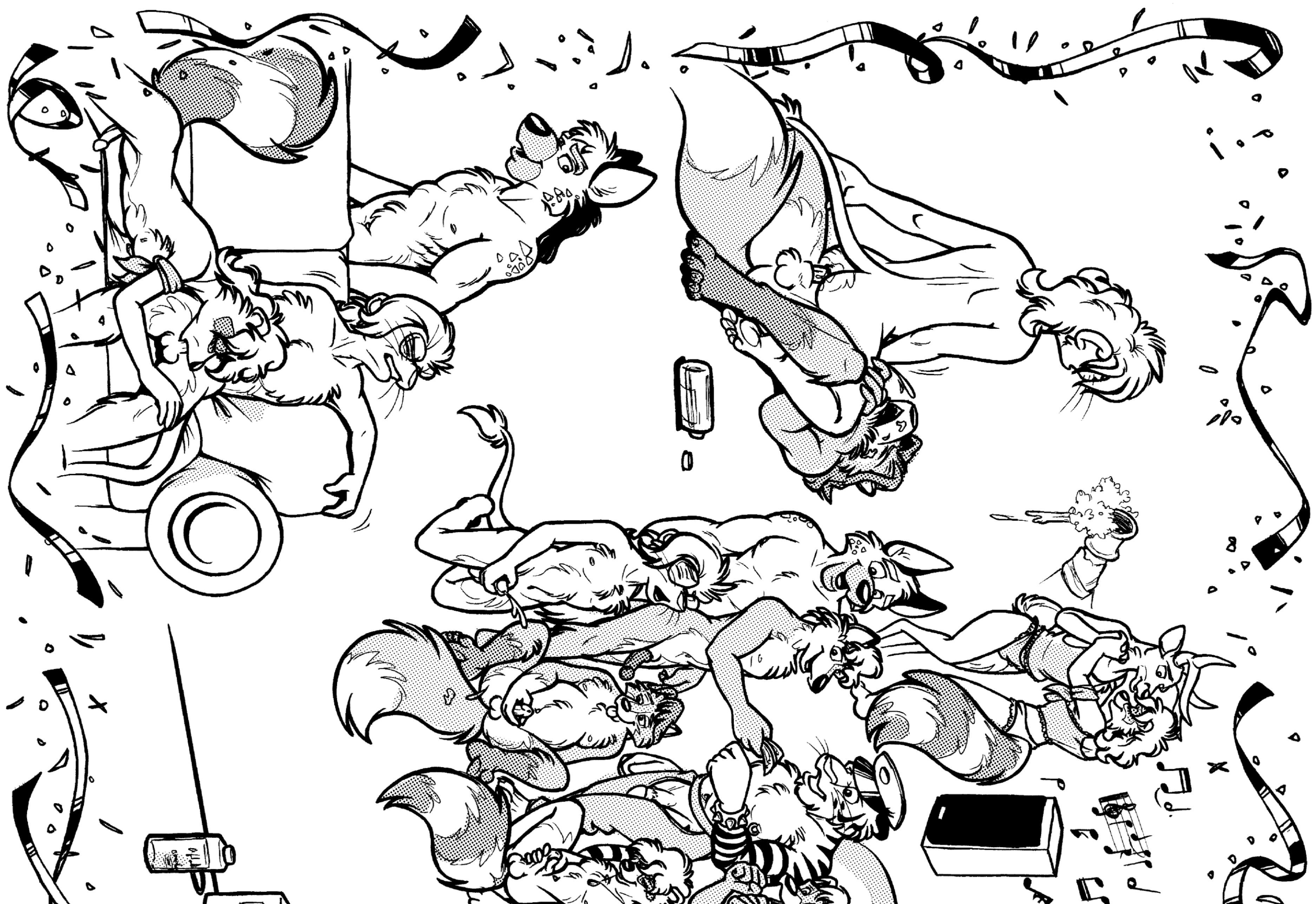
HE GOT TO PLAY WITH YOU, AND, HE GOT TO, UHM... DO IT WITH YOU. I WISH I COULD HOLD YOU LIKE THAT.

I... THOMAS, I REALLY LIKE YOU. I JUST DON'T KNOW IF I'M READY...
OH, THAT'S OKAY... AS LONG AS THERE'S HOPE!

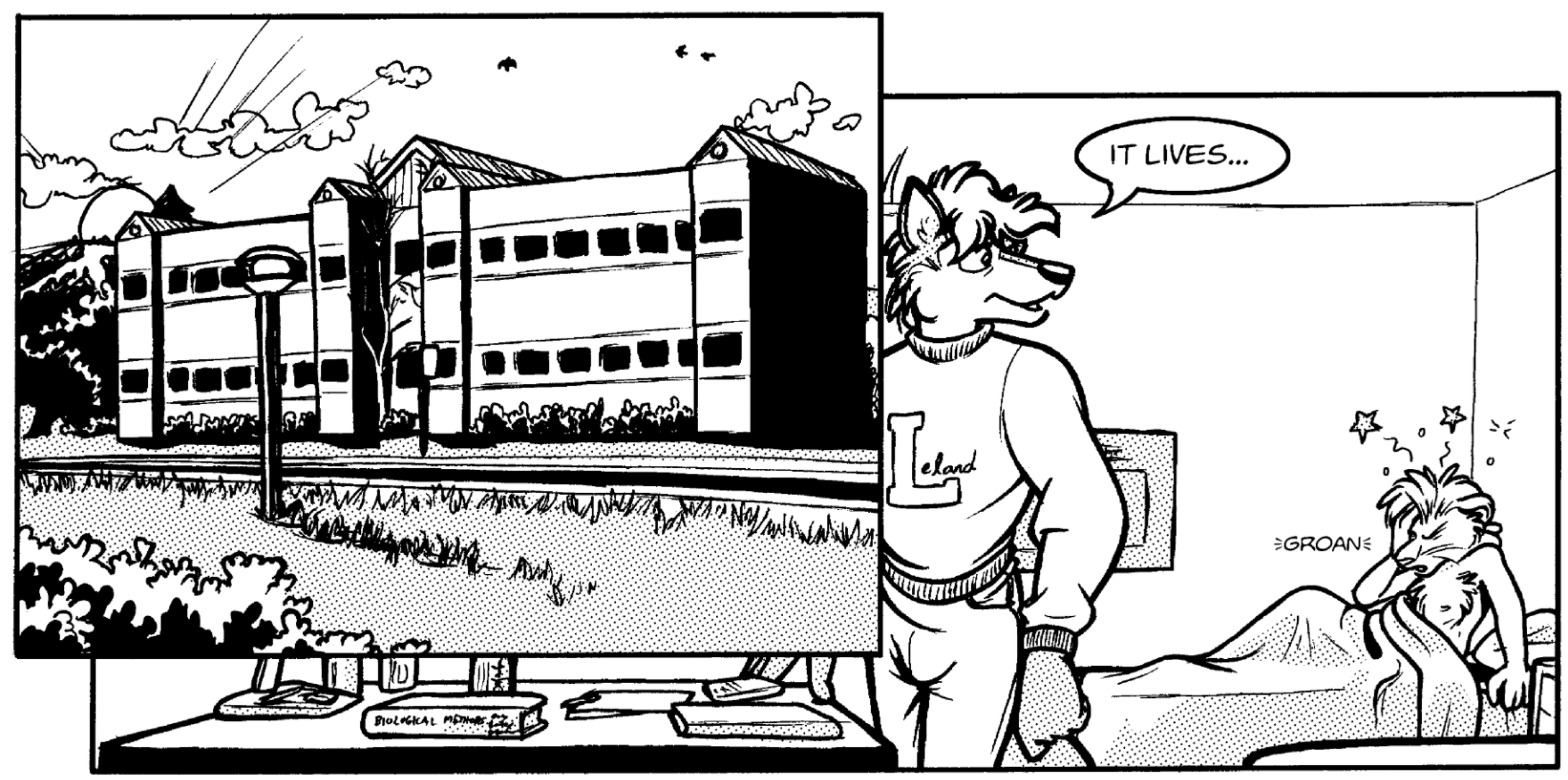
DAMMIT!
JUST REMEMBER, TONIGHT'S SPECIAL, DANNY!

I WISH I COULD JUST RELAX...
UHM, DAVID? COULD I PLEASE HAVE ANOTHER..?
SURE THING, KID.
WINK

SO. YOU GONNA JUST SIT HERE AND WATCH EVERYONE ELSE HAVE FUN?
NONE OF THIS IS EASY FOR ME.
CREAK
AIN'T SUPPOSED TO BE.
Y'KNOW, WHEN YOU FIRST GOT HERE, I FIGURED YOU FOR JUST ANOTHER PRETTYBOY. I WAS WRONG. YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A MAN. MOST OF THESE GUYS DON'T.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
NOT MY MACHO BULL-SHIT. THE IMPORTANT STUFF. YOU KEEP YOUR WORD. YOU HAVE BACK-BONE. YOU CARE ABOUT DOING THE RIGHT THING.
YOU WANNA BE PART OF THAT? YOU CAN.
YEAH...
WHAT'S THAT FOR?
FOR TELLING ME WHAT I NEEDED TO HEAR. I OWE YOU.
I'LL COLLECT.
THOMAS, ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER...
I'D LIKE THAT.
UHM, YEAH?
YES!



DAVID ///
NIGEL //
ALEX //
K-9
JELLY


IT LIVES...
GROAN

HOW DOES VINCE DO IT?
DAVID'S A BIG BOY, ISN'T HE?

TELL ME I DIDN'T DO WHAT I THINK I DID LAST NIGHT...
YOU DID IT ALL. AND ENJOYED IT. JUST LIKE THE REST OF US.
WELL, YEAH...

MY HEAD HURTS... WHY'D YOU LET ME GET DRUNK LAST NIGHT?
PAIN'S A GOOD TEACHER. AND IT ONLY COUNTS IF YOU LEARN FOR YOURSELF. I DIDN'T "LET" YOU. YOU GONNA GET THAT WASTED AGAIN?
NO WAY!
IT WAS A SAFE WAY FOR YOU TO LEARN. AND I WANT YOU SAFE!

NOTHING CAN HURT ME... YOU'RE HERE.
I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE FOR YOU.

END.

LETTERS FROM HOME

Dear Mom, College is great! My roommate is weird. Could you send me some money?

And now, the small print.

Steven, our distressingly straight collie, has been the subject of quite a bit of speculation. Is he, or isn't he? Will he, or won't he? Why does he swish almost as much as his dearest admirer, Ricky? Let's take a look at one such speculation, written by Robert "Four-Eyes" Parish, taken from the Associated Student Bodies mailing list (info for this is on our website at `http://www.arclight.net/asb`*). Edited for brevity; our comments in [brackets]...*

I think Steven is straight, and not a closeted gay man. Most straight guys I have met though seem to have a sense of hating their bodies; paying attention to such things as clothes and the way they look is considered by them unmanly. *[Ever notice how mainstream male fashion, at least for the club scene, follows "queer" fashion?]*

Steven doesn't have this self-hatred. I think that this self hatred isn't about being straight, it's about a fear of being gay. *["Scaredy-dog"! – Ricky]* I don't think every straight guy should be fashion conscious, let alone dress in skimpy garb like Steven does. But I think the straight men would be happier if they didn't have this fear of gay men, and this fear of being gay or bi. I think they would be happier if being straight wasn't the "default" choice, but was instead something that they embraced as a positive choice, a celebration of who they are. I think it would be great if there were "Straight Pride" marches. If more straight people viewed their sexuality as a celebration of who they are, I can't help but think that they would view the sexuality of others in the same positive light. But then again, I can be incredibly naive sometimes, so I may be wrong. *[Like many things of this sort, different places can have different answers. A "straight pride" parade would be received differently in San Francisco versus Des Moines, for instance.]*

I think Steven lives with gay guys not to tease them, but because living there he's not teased like he may have been in another dorm. I experienced plenty of homophobia back when I dated only women, so I know how awful that can be for straight guy. I think Steven is sexy, and adorable. I think it's great he's straight, and I hope he finds happiness with a woman. I hope that he and her raise many children together. I think that his sensitivity and self acceptance would enable him to be an excellent father, who could love and nurture his children and raise them to be strong and healthy people. *[I agree. Steven will have a lot of high-quality love to give... when he gets over his fear of commitment!]* This is something sadly lacking in many straight men, because to nurture is considered to be weak. I'm curious if we'll get to see more of Daniel's father... he strikes me from what I can tell as rather cold and aloof. I guess we shall have to wait and see! *[I guess you have your answer now! – Lance]*

Ever read any of the sayings of Jack Handy? One of the ones that comes to mind is "It takes a strong man to cry... It takes an even stronger man to laugh at that man." Well, I think it takes the strongest man of all to kick that laughing man in the ass for being a callous jerk. I don't condone violence, but when Marcus did the body check of Nigel in number three for lashing out at Steven, I think that that was just as appropriate as him attacking those jocks to keep them from hurting Daniel. Heterophobia is just as wrong as homophobia. We gay folk should not tolerate the bashing of straight or bisexual people. *[I've always found it interesting... and distressing... how bisexuals find no more acceptance among gays than among straights. "Tolerance" means nothing if it isn't practiced both ways.]*

I have a crush on Steven. I am also crazy about Ricky. I cried while reading issue number three when I saw Steven crying. *[I cried when I wrote it. Shhh. Don't tell anyone. My manly image and all... -- Lance]* OTOH, I loved the final story of #4! It was like a dream come true! But I say this... if a future issue had Steven and Ricky fool around, I would have trouble with that, because that would go against everything I know so far about Steven. I would be the same issues if Allison and Tina fooled around sexually with each other.

--Robert "Four-Eyes" Parish

Though we haven't seen Steven for a couple of issues (pre-med takes a lot of time!), he isn't forgotten. Steven's story isn't over yet. He has complex motives as to why he is the way he is, many of which he hasn't figured out for himself yet. There's quite a bit to come yet with our favorite collie. As for Allison and Tina... aside from both having a frustrated interest in Marcus (one "before" and one "after"), they don't have too much in common. We'll be seeing Allison again, though, and Tina's inseparable from the guys at Hillard East. She loves 'em al.!

By the way, Steven and Ricky are our two favorites, too! – Lance and Chris

"THIRTY-SIX... THIRTY-SEVEN... THIRTY-EIGHT... FOURTEEN... FIFTEEN..."

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Tiger, Tiger, burning bright
Riding boldly through the night
Scent of leather, glint of steel
Come alive in pale moonlight

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